



Tech Info Library

Power Macintosh: No FPU Installed Error (11/95)

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TOPIC -----

I have a Power Macintosh computer, and I get errors stating that the FPU is not installed. What is wrong? I thought I had an FPU. Is there any way to check to make sure that it is there?

DISCUSSION -----

Your PowerPC microprocessor has an FPU (floating-point or math co-processor) installed. The FPU is incorporated within the PowerPC microprocessor itself and is part of the basic specification of the computer.

An "FPU not installed" error is software-related and can occur in two ways:

1. You are attempting to use a program which is running in emulation mode and which requires a floating-point unit. The emulation mode in Power Macintosh computers does not simulate a floating-point unit. Many applications check for the presence of a math co-processor before attempting to use it. However, if the application does not check for a math co-processor and attempts to use one, then you get the "No FPU installed" error.

The solution is to update your software with a version that is Power Macintosh-native. In some cases, you may be able to use third-party products which provide a software-based FPU.

2. You are running software--either emulated or native--which is failing. For a variety of reasons, the error message is coming across as an "FPU not installed" error.

The solution, in this case, is to locate which software (such as extensions, control panels, drivers, or applications) is causing the error, and either contact the publisher for compatibility information, or do not use it.

See these related Tech Info Library articles for additional information:

"Troubleshooting Macintosh System 7 INIT Conflicts"

"System 7.5: Troubleshooting Extension Conflicts"

"Native, Conventional, & Fat Applications: What Are They?"

"Power Macintosh: 68LC040 Emulator"

"Power Macintosh: Type 11 & No FPU Errors Technote"

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