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DA Handler: Memory Constraints

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Note: The following information is applicable only to System 6.0.X running under MultiFinder.

TOPIC -----

What causes the DA Handler to cease functioning occasionally? I am working on a color Macintosh II (with an Apple monitor) with 4 MB RAM, a 40 MB hard drive, and an AppleCD SC and running system software version 6.0.3 and MultiFinder. (I'm also running numerous INITs.) I see the problem when I try to select any DA.

The DA Handler icon flashes in the menu bar, but the system simply returns to the current application. If I try selecting a different application or returning to the Finder, the same thing happens. It also happens under system software versions 6.0.2 and 6.0. The only solution appears to be to restart.

DISCUSSION -----

This situation can occur when you run low on the available MultiFinder memory. If you have enough memory to load the DA Handler, but not enough to run the desk accessory, the desk accessory quits. DA Handler then exits, because there are no desk accessories currently running. Unless the desk accessory reports an error, all you see is the DA Handler launching and then exiting, because there are no loaded desk accessories.

The reason this happens under MultiFinder, and not under Finder, is that DA Handler is an application that is run when a desk accessory is selected from the Apple menu. There is not necessarily enough memory left for it to run, after you have loaded other applications.

In the Finder, desk accessories are loaded into the memory taken by the currently running application. You can force the same thing in MultiFinder by holding down the Option key when you select the desk accessory.

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