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System Software:Installation On a One-Floppy-Drive System (2/95)

Article Created: 25 May 1989
Article Reviewed/Updated: 22 February 1995

TOPIC ---

This article explains a workaround for system software installation on a
one-floppy-drive system.

DISCUSSION --

If your Macintosh has only one floppy disk drive and no hard disk drive (for
example: a Macintosh II, Macintosh IIx, or Macintosh SE/30 with no hard disk),
you can still install system software 6.0.3 onto a bootable floppy disk.

Such a System Software upgrade, even on a Macintosh IIx with an Apple SuperDrive
(formerly Apple FDHD), takes 402 disk insertions (or disk swaps).

Rather than numerous disk insertions/swaps, a simpler procedure may be to use a
RAM-disk program. On a system with 2 or more megabytes (MB) of RAM, you can
create a RAM disk of 800K to 1500K, and then copy the Installer and associated
files to it. The Finder on the RAM-disk could be Option-clicked to make it
become the start-up disk. After restarting with the RAM disk as your startup
disk, you can run the installation as though a two-floppy system were being
used.

Article Change History:
22 Feb 1995 - Reviewed for technical accuracy and added the commonly used
              term "disk swap" to enhance searching capabilities.
22 Aug 1991 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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Keywords: supt,ksts

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 3803