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Macintosh: When Application Colors Change Unexpectedly

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TOPIC -----

I have a Macintosh IIxi with 5MB of memory, a 13-inch High Resolution color monitor with built-in video, 40MB hard disk, and NuBus adapter.

My problem appears randomly, always when running these applications: Telnet 2.3, Microsoft Word 4.0b, and Microsoft Excel 2.2a.

In Excel, when I call up a dialog box (to set borders, for example) the colors of the box will be messed up. If I keep reopening the dialog box the colors will eventually change. For example, the box may initially come up with a black background and black letters, then a blue background with black letters, then a red background, with black letters, and so on.

DISCUSSION -----

It sounds like something is changing the System color table. We have experienced this when using the Kolor CDEV (the CDEV that allows you to change the color of the windows, buttons, scroll bars, and so on). If you're running MultiFinder, one of your applications may be setting the System color table to its own custom palette. 4th Dimension, for example, can change the System's color table.

Your workaround depends on whether it's an application or a CDEV that's changing the color. If it's something like Kolor, turning it off may be the only solution. Or perhaps there's been an update to the CDEV--check with the publisher for the latest version. With 4th Dimension, some people have used ResEdit to eliminate the offending resource. But this causes some applications to crash, so we don't recommend this solution.

Also, reinstalling the System may be a solution. It could be that your System color table has simply been corrupted.

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