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PowerBook: Can A 500 MB Drive Be Formatted To 750 MB?(2/97)

Article Created: 24 February 1997

Article Reviewed/Updated: 25 February 1997

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TOPIC -----

In my PowerBook Duo 280c there is a 500 MB hard drive (part number 661-0175) which has been formatted with HD SC Setup 7.3.5.

I peeled off a sticker from the 500 MB hard drive and saw that it was actually a 750 MB hard drive. I was able to reformat the hard drive 750 MB. Everything worked fine until the disk had just over 500 MB worth of data files on it. Then a lot of files started getting corrupted.

What is wrong? Is this hard drive (661-0175) really a 500 MB or 750 MB drive?

DISCUSSION -----

Apple did sell a hard drive under service part number 661-0175 that is a 500 MB hard drive. The drive was originally built as 750 MB device. Due to a change in plans with a product configuration Apple found themselves with these drives available for use as service parts. The drives' firmware was reworked to set them to allow the drive to only be formatted up to 500 megabytes.

You could override these firmware settings that restrict the hard drive size to 500 MB. However, overriding these firmware settings would have to be done with a third party drive utility. This procedure, of course, is not supported or recommended by Apple Computer. Performance of the drive if formatted beyond 500 MB could probably be unreliable.

Formating the drive with one of Apple's drive formatting utilities (HD SC Setup or Drive Setup) will format the drive to the proper size of 500 MB.

Article Change History:

25 Feb 1997 - Corrected minor typo.

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Keywords: kpbook,hts

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This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

ArticleID: TECHINFO-0021018

19970226 09:14:55.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 21018