



Tech Info Library

A/UX: Formatting 1.4MB Disks

Article Created: 7 August 1992

Article Last Reviewed:

Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

I'm running A/UX 3.0, and I can't format 1.4MB floppy disks.
I used these commands:

```
diskformat -dens 1440 /dev/rfloppy0
diskformat -dens 1440 /dev/rfd0
```

I also couldn't format 1.4MB floppy disks under A/UX 2.0.1. I have no problem formatting 800K floppy disks.

DISCUSSION -----

You shouldn't have difficulty formatting 1.4MB disks under A/UX 2.0.1 or 3.0. Here are some common scenarios that may help you discover the source of your problem:

- If you insert an unformatted floppy disk under A/UX CommandShell or A/UX Multi-Finder environment, it displays that the disk is unreadable and asks you to "Eject" or "Initialize". If you select "Initialize", it initializes in Macintosh HFS format.
- If you insert a formatted Macintosh HFS floppy under A/UX CommandShell, it displays that this is a Macintosh disk and asks if you want to use it as "UNIX Data" or "Macintosh" or "Eject". If you select "UNIX Data", the floppy disk icon disappears from the desktop. Then you can use any A/UX command, like "diskformat", "tar", "cpio", "dd", "newfs", and so on, to manipulate the floppy disk.
- If you insert a formatted Macintosh HFS floppy disk under A/UX MultiFinder, the floppy disk icon should appear on the desktop. If you switch to A/UX CommandShell and try to format it with "diskformat", you get the "cannot open /dev/rfloppy0" message. This is due to the A/UX Finder currently occupying the floppy disk drive.
- If you insert a UNIX file type of floppy disk under A/UX CommandShell, no floppy disk icon appears on the desktop. You can manipulate the floppy

disk in UNIX.

- If you insert a UNIX file type of floppy disk under A/UX MultiFinder environment, it will display that this isn't a Macintosh disk, and ask if you want to "Eject" or "Initialize".

Copyright 1992, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 10522