



Tech Info Library

GS/OS 6.0.1: How It Differs from 6.0 (6/93)

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TOPIC -----

This is a summary of the visible changes in GS/OS 6.0.1 compared to 6.0. There have been many bugs fixed and many features added that aren't immediately visible. This document helps identify those features or changes.

DISCUSSION -----

FINDER (SEE ALSO FINDER HELP)

You can now click in Name, Size, Kind, or Last Modified at the top of a list-view window to change the view.

To rename an icon, you must now click on its name rather than the icon.

The File Copy Alternatives dialog has been removed. Holding down the Option key now always forces a copy rather than a move.

Dragging certain system-related files to the System folder icon on the boot volume now does "magic routing" much like the Macintosh Finder. Note that this only works when using the folder icon; dragging into a window works as before. The kinds of files that are properly placed in their own folders within the System folder are: Control Panels, Desk Accessories, Drivers, FSTs, Tools, Fonts, Sounds, INITs, and Finder Extensions. Other files are just placed in the System folder.

The Finder now creates the FinderExtras folder for you.

If you open the Icon Info window on an Apple SCSI device, the SCSI ID number appears on the Where card.

The Finder's Clipboard window handles text, pictures, and sounds. If you copy a sound to the Clipboard (using the Sound control panel, for example), you can click on the Speaker icon on the Clipboard to hear the sound. Teach has the same Clipboard window.

EXTENSIONS

EasyMount isn't just for servers anymore. It now handles aliases to any disk, folder, or application. In other words, you don't need to drag the icon onto the desktop anymore -- just keep an alias of it on the desktop. Select the icon of the item you want to alias and choose "Make Alias..." from the Extras menu. EasyMount will ask you where to save the alias. Later, double-clicking the alias opens the real item, disks and folders are opened, and applications (ProDOS 8 or GS/OS) are launched. The Installer automatically installs EasyMount in your System.Setup folder.

CONTROL PANELS

DC Printer Control Panel

This was a change in System 6.0 but not documented: The DC Printer will let you choose LaserWriter, which is potentially useful for "printing" to PostScript files.

Monitor Control Panel

The new checkbox "Smoother Mouse Cursor" sets a new Battery RAM location. It kills the cursor flicker that's especially noticeable with a Video Overlay card or an accelerator.

SetStart Control Panel

The new checkbox "Show icons during startup" provides a way to set the Battery RAM location that disables the display of the startup icons. The Battery RAM location has been there since System 6.0, but there was no Apple-provided way to change it.

The new checkbox "Enable programmer CDAs" provides a way to set the Battery RAM location that allows Visit Monitor and Memory Peeker to show up in the CDA menu. Both ROM 1 and ROM 3 Apple IIGS computers now check this location. This checkbox doesn't show up if the ROM 3 Control Panel disable jumper is present.

STARTUP

During startup, if you have a lot of icons, they no longer keep recycling the bottom row of the screen. They now "wrap up" to the row above.

If you use a Vulcan internal hard drive, you no longer need to copy the Vulcan driver onto the Install disk when installing new system software. You can still use the Vulcan driver for enhanced performance, but you can successfully install without it.

If your ROM 3 Apple IIGS has 8 Megabytes of RAM, the computer fails to create a RAM disk (RAM5) of any size. In this case, System 6.0.1 creates RAM5 and then restarts the system. When you turn on the computer, you will hear an extra beep at the "Apple IIGS ... ROM Version 3" screen.

DRIVERS

The RAM5 RAM disk has a new driver. The Installer automatically installs it if you have the RAM disk enabled when you do an Easy Update. The driver greatly enhances the disk's performance. It also allows you to have a RAM5 disk in GS/OS (but not in ProDOS 8) even when slot 5 is switched to "Your card." On a ROM 1, you must have the Minimum and Maximum sizes set to the same value; otherwise you'll see a message during startup and it won't use the new driver.

The Apple II Memory Expansion Card has a new optional format. If you have a full megabyte of memory on the card, it lets you format it as either 1,024K or 800K. The 800K option blocks out the remaining 224K, but allows faster block copies to and from other 800K disks.

FILE SYSTEM TRANSLATORS (FSTs)

The MS-DOS FST is new. To use it, you need a drive that can read MFM disks, such as the Apple SuperDrive with an Apple II SuperDrive Controller Card.

This version is read-only -- it doesn't let you make changes to MS-DOS disks.

PRODOS 8

The Thunderclock year table in ProDOS 8 has been updated for the years 1993-1998. There's also a Clock.Patch file on the SystemTools2 disk that you may use to update ProDOS 8 (renamed to ProDOS) to include future year groups.

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