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ProDOS 8: How To Find Disk, Controller, and Block Information

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This article describes how to find disk information, by making calls to
significant memory locations.

Is the Card a Disk Controller?

Check memory locations $Cs01, $Cs03, $Cs05 (s = slot number) for $20, $00,
and $03, respectively. If these values are found, then the card in the
slot is a disk controller.

Apple Disk II Disk Controller and Disk Capacity?

Check memory location $CsFF. If the value is $00 or $FF, assume that an
Apple Disk II disk controller card is installed ($00 is 16-sector, $FF is
13-sector).

SmartPort Device and Number of Blocks?

If the device is not an Apple Disk II disk controller card, check memory
location $Cs07. If the value does not equal $00, the device is not a
SmartPort device, and the total number of blocks for the drive are stored
at memory locations $CsFC and $CsFD in low-byte/high-byte order.

If the total number of blocks is 0, contact the card manufacturer for
details on how to determine the number of blocks. (Note: We do not know of
any disk controller that does not store the total number of blocks at
memory locations $CsFC and $CsFD.)

If the value at memory location $Cs07 is $00, the drive is a SmartPort
device. To find the number of blocks on the drive, you must make SmartPort
status call $03 (get DIB). This call is documented in the "Apple IIGS
Firmware Reference Manual" on pages 114 through 125 with the most specific
information starting on page 121.
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