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DOS Compatibility Card: System Using Large Amount of RAM (9/95)

Article Created: 29 March 1994
Article Reviewed/Updated: 28 September 1995

TOPIC ---

In the About This Macintosh dialog box, the system software on my Quadra 610
with the DOS Compatibility Card is using over 5.5 MB. Before I started using the
DOS Compatibility Card, my system software was only using 1.5 MB. Why is there
an increase in the size of the system software?

DISCUSSION --

The DOS Compatibility Card comes with a 72-pin SIMM expansion slot. This SIMM
slot ships without a SIMM installed. Without a SIMM installed, the Macintosh and
the DOS Compatibility Card share the memory installed in the Macintosh. In the
PC Setup control panel, the amount of RAM that is shared can be changed in the
memory section. The default amount of shared memory is 4 MB. The shared amount
of RAM shows up in the About This Macintosh dialog box as part of the System
software memory amount.

The PC Setup control panel allows you to change the amount of shared RAM. This
allows you to lower the system software usage, by decreasing the amount of RAM
set aside for the DOS Compatibility Card. The PC Setup Control panel also has an
ON and OFF switch. This allows you to turn off the DOS Compatibility Card and
free up all the shared memory if you aren't going to use DOS. After turning off
the PC Setup control panel and restarting, the amount of RAM used by the system
software returns to the original amount, in this case 1.5 MB.

If a SIMM is installed on the DOS Compatibility Card, then there is no shared
memory, so the system software remains at the original amount.

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Keywords: kwindows

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 15038