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Macintosh: System 7 and More than 8MB of RAM

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TOPIC -----

My Macintosh Quadra 700 with 20MB of RAM, has only 7MB available. The system software takes up 13MB of RAM.

DISCUSSION -----

If you have more than 8MB of RAM installed in a Macintosh, you can access only 8MB of that RAM unless you have 32-bit addressing turned on in System 7 or you're using A/UX. With 32-bit addressing turned on, you can access up to 128MB of physical RAM. under System 7.

To turn 32-bit addressing on, turn 32-Bit Addressing on in the Memory control panel and restart.

If you're running System 7 in 24-bit addressing mode, or any version of system software before 7.0, any RAM beyond 8MB is treated as if it is already being used by the System heap, and is unavailable for your use.

In your case, a Macintosh Quadra 700 has 20MB of RAM, 12MB of which is automatically allocated to the System heap and is unused. If the System is reported as using 13MB, then the System is actually occupying 1MB of the available 8MB of RAM.

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