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Macintosh IIfx Upgrade: Some Symptoms of Bad RAM

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TOPIC -----

I upgraded my Macintosh II to a Macintosh IIfx by purchasing the Macintosh IIfx logic board upgrade and two 4MB Macintosh IIfx memory upgrades.

This is actually the second logic board that I've ordered. The first was returned to Apple because it had the multichime error sound when first turned on with the full 8MB of RAM. However, it worked properly with only 4MB installed.

The second logic board has a similar problem. If 8MB of RAM is installed, the unit acts strangely. Here are some symptoms:

- The desktop is extremely slow to update at startup, particularly when it tries to read the hard drive.
- When an icon is moved, multiple remnants of the icon are left behind on the desktop.
- Inserting a locked, known good floppy disk into the drive causes a dialog "Disk is damaged and can't be used". Reinserting the same disk into a Macintosh IIci or Macintosh SE results in normal response.
- The system has trouble launching programs and eventually crashes with a system error = 03 or 10 error.
- Disks that were not write-protected were permanently damaged and could not be repaired with Norton Utilities for the Mac. When opened on any other system, the disk would indicate that it had used space, but no icons appeared.
- Disks inserted would often be missing several icons. When those same disks are inserted into other systems or this system running 4MB, all icons appear.

The interesting thing is that if the machine is reduced to 4MB of RAM populated in bank A, it works just fine. It doesn't matter which RAM

chips are placed in Bank A -- as long as Bank B is empty, the system is normal.

DISCUSSION -----

We have heard of this problem before. It turned out to be bad RAM causing the crashes and erratic behavior. Replace the memory in the back bank with four new SIMMs of a different brand.

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