Macintosh IIsi: Application Software Compatibility

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TOPIC ---

This article summarizes the software compatibility issues at the
introduction of the Macintosh IIsi.

DISCUSSION --

The Macintosh IIsi Was Widely Seeded

In the United States alone, over 300 developers received Macintosh IIsi
seed units. Many other developers received full documentation, and were
able to test their products at Apple. This was the most extensive seeding
and testing of a new computer in recent history.

Of the applications on which Apple had compatibility information, 97%
either worked with the Macintosh IIsi, or were in the process of being
revised. The other 3% were discontinued products.

Compatibility Issues

FPU: Apple identified about twenty application programs that required an
FPU (and did not have an alternate non-FPU version). Many of the color
paint programs that fell in this category were revised to work on all
Macintosh models. However, most CAD/CAM programs and other high-end
graphics/math programs still require an FPU. We will identify these
applications on all compatibility lists.

Microsoft Excel: Version 2.2a or higher is recommended for all Macintosh
IIsi and Macintosh LC configurations. Microsoft offers a free upgrade from
2.2 to 2.2a.

Monitor size: Several programs did not work properly on the Apple
Macintosh 12-inch RGB Display, because they assumed a minimum 640-pixel by
480-pixel size. These programs were in the process of being revised.

Macintosh SE/30 cards: Some Macintosh SE/30 cards did not work with the
Macintosh IIsi, due to incorrect timing and physical dimensions. All

cards that followed the guidelines in Apple's "Cards and Drivers" manual work correctly.

NuBus power requirements: Some NuBus cards exceeded the 15W power maximum specification. These cards were primarily the high-end graphics and video cards. We asked developers of these cards to include, in their manuals, references to power if they exceeded the maximum specification. We also included a caution in the Macintosh IIsi manual.

Sound: The new sound input software made it necessary for some developers to update their software. Latest versions should work with the new Macintosh models.

AppleTalk: An AppleTalk problem in System 6.0.6 was fixed in System 6.0.7, which shipped with all Macintosh IIsi and Macintosh LC systems sold in the United states.
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