



Tech Info Library

Partitioning Large Hard Drives into Smaller Blocks (8/95)

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TOPIC -----

The minimum file size on my 2 GB drive is 32K, and I would like to make it smaller, but I can't seem to do it with HDSC setup. Why is the file size so large, and what can I do to make it smaller?

DISCUSSION -----

In both the Macintosh and DOS environments, the maximum number of blocks on a drive is 65,536 because both Operating Systems address the allocation blocks with a 16-bit address. Drives larger than 512 MB cannot use a block size of 8K or less because there just aren't enough addresses. Thus, if a 2 GB drive is one Macintosh partition, the smallest file size allowed will be 32k. (If you saved a TeachText file with one character, it would take up 32k of disk space.) This can waste a lot of space on large drives that have a lot of small files.

One solution to this problem would be to partition larger drives into smaller partitions or logical drives, each with a maximum of 65,536 blocks. Apple's Drive Setup can be used to partition qualified Apple hard drives and some removable devices as listed in the Drive Setup Guide file. Unsupported hard drives will show up in the device list by name, however, if you select an unsupported hard drive you will get the message, "Cannot modify a disk in an unsupported drive."

Also, Drive Setup is supported on all of the Power Macintosh computers. This includes the original Power Macintosh computers and the new PCI-based Power Macintosh computers. Drive Setup is also supported on 68LC040 processor-based systems that have IDE drives installed. Drive Setup is not supported with the Power Macintosh Upgrade Card.

There are third-party companies that offer solutions for creating multiple Macintosh partitions. A few that we know of are:

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Hard Disk Toolkit (HDT)	by FWB Software, Inc.
SilverLining	by LaCie Ltd.
Micronet Utility	by MicroNet Technology
MicroTech Utility	by MicroTech International

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The Tech Info Library article titled "Locating Vendor Information" can help you search for a particular vendor's address and phone number.

Article Change History:

30 Aug 1995 - Added Apple's Drive Setup information.

20 Jun 1994 - Typo fix.

Support Information Services

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