Tech Info Library

Macintosh: Proper Way to Shutdown and Restart

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Article Change History

09/28/92 - REVIEWED
            • For technical accuracy.

TOPIC ---

Is it okay to shut down my Macintosh by turning off the power?

DISCUSSION --

The only correct way to restart or shut down a Macintosh system is to use
the "Restart" or "Shut Down" commands from the "Special" menu in the
Finder. On startup, when a volume is mounted successfully, a flag is set
on that volume telling the system that the volume was mounted properly.

When the volume is unmounted properly by using the "Restart" or "Shut
Down" commands in the Finder, this flag is cleared. If the computer is
turned off by the power switch or reset using the reset button, the volume
has been unmounted improperly, and this flag is not cleared.

During startup, this flag is tested. If the flag is clear, the volume
was unmounted properly, and the system starts up as normal. If the flag
is set, the system knows that the volume was unmounted incorrectly. The
system then proceeds to rebuild the volume bitmap. On a large volume with
many files, this operation may take several minutes.
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