



# Tech Info Library

## DRAM: General Information

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### Article Change History

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09/11/92 - REVIEWED

- For technical accuracy.

### TOPIC -----

- 1) What information is stored in DRAM?
- 2) What happens to the information in DRAM when the Macintosh is turned off?
- 3) Is DRAM volatile?

### DISCUSSION -----

- 1) DRAM is the memory used by the Macintosh to temporarily hold the information or data that the user is working on until it is saved to a hard disk, floppy disk, or another storage medium.
- 2) Once power is no longer supplied to RAM, the contents is lost. If a user is working on a Macintosh and turns the system off without saving the work, what was in DRAM during the work session will be lost. The data lost is the data that the user was working on before the power was removed.
- 3) Yes, DRAM is volatile. That's the nature of DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory); it needs to be constantly powered with electricity to remember its contents. The same applies to SRAM (Static Random Access Memory); however, SRAM does not need to be refreshed the way DRAM does, and this provides data retention for extended periods, which is why this type of RAM is used in Macintosh Portable computers.

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