File Assistant: Increasing Battery Life (6/93)

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TOPIC ---

This article discusses the key features of File Assistant that are designed to increase battery life.

DISCUSSION ---

The PowerBook Display

The backlight is one of the major power consumers on the PowerBooks. Approximately 1/3 of the power is used to illuminate the display with the backlight. Viewing the screen without a backlight however, is difficult and usually impossible. Screen Dimming saves power and allows the user to see the screen during usage.

The Screen Dimming panel of the PowerBook Display control panel provides controls over Automatic screen dimming. This panel displays only if the portable computer is capable of software control over the backlight and/or external monitor.

SCSI Sleep Fkey

With SCSI Sleep, you can put the PowerBook to sleep immediately by pressing the shift, command, and 0 keys simultaneously. When you add the Control key to this sequence, just the hard disk spins down. This gives easier access to system sleep and longer battery life.

Permanent RAM Disk

There's one new feature added to the RAM disk option of the Memory Control Panel. Any files copied to the RAM disk are saved to disk upon shut down or restart, and then copied back to the RAM disk upon startup. This saves rebuilding the RAM disk at every restart.

This first version of the Permanent RAM Disk doesn't support instant booting, so using it as a system volume requires a restart.

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