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Get Info Command: File Size Differences (8/93)

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TOPIC -----

I used the Get Info command on each folder on my hard drive to find the size, and added those numbers up. Then I used the Get Info command on my hard drive icon to find the size. The size difference is huge -- almost 30MB.

Why is this?

DISCUSSION -----

It isn't surprising to see a large size difference between the hard drive itself and the total folders on the hard drive. Here are factors that explain the difference:

- The invisible files (such as AppleShare PDS, Desktop DB, Desktop DF, and Desktop Folder) aren't counted in Get Info size for folders.
- The size shown in the Get Info box for folders is the actual file size, which includes data and resource forks. For example, a text file which contains only 30 bytes, showed Size: 3K on disk (480 bytes used); 480 bytes (30 bytes for data, 450 bytes for resource) will be added to the folder Get Info size, and 3K will be added to the hard drive Get Info size.

Since the hard disk is a block device, any file created must reside on the block factor boundary -- 3K, in this case, is the size that the disk drive allocates for this file. This accounts for a lot of differences, especially if you have a lot of small files on the drive.

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