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Macintosh: Directory size

Since the Macintosh's directory uses variable amounts of storage space to maintain file names, it's possible to run out of "disk space" to store file names when there is plenty of storage space for the data itself. In fact, you can run out of directory space just by changing the name of a file to a longer one.

To free up all available storage space for your files: 1) shorten the names of your files as much as possible, and then 2) move all documents to another diskette, then erase the original diskette and move the documents back onto it.

NOTE: Some third-party applications don't handle this situation in a very friendly manner: the system may bomb due to the lack of directory space and not inform you why it bombed. If you suspect that lack of directory space may be your problem--that is, if your disk is fairly full--perform the two steps described above before you assume the problem is something else.

Apple Technical Communications

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