Macintosh: Calculate Folder Size Doesn't Add Up (12/94)

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TOPIC ---

When I enable "Calculate Folder Size" in the Views control panel, the amount of
disk space shown is not equal to the sizes when all folder sizes are added up.

What is occupying the extra space?

DISCUSSION ---

Simply adding up the folder sizes does not include the items on the desktop, nor
invisible files.

For example, using a utility called Find Pro III to locate hidden files, 144 of
them were found. 137 of them were named "Icon". These files are created when
you paste an icon on a folder. If you create an empty folder and paste an icon
on it, the "Get Info" window shows that the folder contains zero K and no items.
 However, if you throw this folder in the trash and "Get Info" on the trash, the
window shows one file and one folder in the trash and the size of the file is
greater than zero K. Therefore, the Finder apparently does not count invisible
files when it calculates the size of a folder.

To summarize, the displaying of folder sizes is not always accurate due to the
invisible files, which the Finder ignores, and the virtual memory swap file,
which is whatever size is set in the Memory control panel. Also, items on the
Desktop are not shown as being in any folder but they take up space and are
included in total disk usage. By adding up all of the space these items take on
the drive, the total amount of disk space used should be very close to the
amount of space the disk info shows.

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15 Dec 1994 - Added keyword and made minor technical updates.

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