Tech Info Library

System Software: System Taking 20MB After a Clean Install (1/95)

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TOPIC ---

A customer reports that no matter how many "clean" system installs they do the
System Software takes up 20MB RAM, as reported in 'About This Macintosh'. This
problem occurs even when booting from the CD-ROM. What can cause this to
happen?

DISCUSSION --

First check the memory control panel settings. If the computer supports it, make
sure 32-bit addressing is on or all RAM above 8MB will get allocated to the
system software. Next make sure the disk cache is not too high. Disk Cache is
recommended to be set at 32K per 1024K of physical RAM or lower. Memory used by
the RAM Disk is allocated to the system software. Boot with extensions off to
see if an extension is using the additional RAM. Lastly, under System 7.1 and
later, move the fonts folder to the desktop and reboot to see if a corrupt font
is using the RAM.

The System Heap and System Software partition can hold a lot of different
software components. In a situation like this, after starting the CPU with a
known good System Folder or after a clean install, look for incompatible device
drivers as the culprit. Device drivers can be present on any SCSI device
attached to the Macintosh or on NuBus/PDS expansion cards. Test by
disconnecting the SCSI chain or by removing internal cards.

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06 Jan 1995 - Updated discussion section.

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