Tech Info Library

Alternating Cursor: Macintosh Can't Boot (11/94)

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TOPIC --------------------------------------------------------------

After starting the Macintosh, it draws a menu bar with no text, freezes, and
then the cursor changes between the watch and arrow continuously. The Macintosh
never completes the startup sequence. The Macintosh can't boot from a System 7.x
floppy disk, but can boot from a System 6.x floppy disk. Booting with extensions
off or zapping parameter RAM doesn't help either.


DISCUSSION ---------------------------------------------------------

The cause of this is incorrect window coordinates in the Finder. The Finder
stores the top-left and bottom-right coordinate of each window. Should, for some
reason, the bottom-right coordinate of a window be to the left or top of the
top-left coordinate, the Finder will get very confused. You'll then see the
alternating wristwatch and arrow cursor.

The solution to this problem is to restart with the Option key held down. This
forces the Finder to close all the windows, and zero out their coordinates.
This may not work if a third party keyboard is in use, for best results, use an
Apple keyboard to zero out the coordinates.


Article Change History:
02 Nov 1994 - Added possible problems with third party keyboards.
30 Sep 1994 - Edited to include the words "watch" and "pointer".

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