Apple HD SC Setup: Checks for Bad Blocks & More (5/96)

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TOPIC ---

Does the Apple HD SC Setup program re-map the hard disk to set aside bad or
unusable sectors like a low-level format, or does it simply set up blocks and
mark them all as available?

What other hard drive issues can it address?

DISCUSSION --

Yes, Apple HD SC Setup does spare bad blocks. If too many bad blocks are found,
a message that the hard drive needs to be serviced is displayed. Since you were
apparently able to format the drive successfully, we can assume that the
problems are not due to bad blocks.

The drive could be have other errors though. For instance, it could be having
trouble positioning its head on the platters.

In very rare cases a third party formatter used on a Apple drive can damage it
so that Apple HD SC Setup will no longer recognize it. The hardware is usually
OK but the driver is severely corrupted. This was an issue with older version of
Apple HD SC Setup and should not occur with the version shipping with System
7.5.

If you can prevent the driver from loading at start up. You can usually get
Apple HD SC Setup to recognize and reformat the drive. To prevent the driver
from loading, wait till the Mac has booted before turning on the drive. For
internal drives, try holding down CMD-OPT-SHT-DELETE until the Mac has booted.
(Note: This does not work on most Quadra, PowerBook, or LC series computers.

A good rule to follow is to format all SCSI devices with the same formatting
software. This avoids possible SCSI driver conflicts.

With System 7.5, all 68040 based and higher Macintosh computers need to have
SCSI Manager 4.3 compatible drivers.

You can also do a "Get Info" on problematic drive. In the Get Info window, next
to where is says 'Where:' you will see "Hard Disk Name, SCSI 0" or
"HardDiskName, SCSI 0 (a)" if it is an Apple HD SC Setup formatted drive. If any

other information/characters are there, then it has a third party driver.

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27 May 1996 - Corrected minor typographical error.
09 Nov 1994 - Added more troubleshooting information to article.

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