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AWS 95: Format HD Under A/UX or Mac OS (4/95)

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TOPIC -----

In the near future I will be upgrading one of my Macintosh IIcx servers to an Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 running AppleShare Pro. I haven't seen the AppleShare Pro documentation, but when looking over the documentation for the database version of the AWS 95, it talks about the advantage of using drives formatted under A/UX instead of the Macintosh OS. I have an existing 600MB hard drive using System 7.0.x and want to use it with the AWS 95 which has a 1 GB drive. Will it be necessary to reformat the 600MB drive to A/UX for use with AppleShare Pro? If it's not necessary, would there be any advantages to formatting it under A/UX, or will this be a plug and play upgrade?

DISCUSSION -----

Although the AWS 95 documentation specifies that you use UFS file systems it's not because of technical limits but for performance reasons. The Macintosh OS calls, `PBRead()` and `PBWrite()`, have been implemented as asynchronous calls if the accessed files reside on a UNIX file system. These same calls are synchronous if the accessed files are located on an HFS file system.

This is only going to make a difference if you exceed your kernel disk buffer cache, even though some disk reads will still be occurring. The size of the buffer cache varies depending on configurations but on a 32MB system, it's usually set to approximately 16MB. So until you have enough reading and writing occurring to consume the entire 16MB, the writes will appear to be asynchronous because you're just writing to a buffer cache (memory), and not waiting for a slow disk to tell you its completed the write.

The only other thing to realize is that you are limited to six external HFS partitions. Other than that you should be able to move the drive from the existing system to the new system with no problem.

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18 Apr 1995 - Made correction of typographical errors.

06 Jun 1994 - Updated with additional information.

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