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AppleCD 600: Firmware Rev for Problem With CD-R, CD+ discs 8/96

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TOPIC -----

Certain AppleCD 600i mechanisms have problems reading multisession, CD-R or CD+ formatted discs. The problem can be identified by a stuttering or skipping sound from the computer. In some cases, the CD-ROM disc will not mount. This has been known to occur with single sessions CD-ROM discs also, although most failures only occur with multisession discs.

DISCUSSION -----

If you are having problems reading multisession or CD+ CD-ROM discs and have a Matsushita CD-ROM mechanism with firmware revision 2.0d or earlier, an authorized Apple service provider may replace the drive to resolve the issue.

NOTE:

As of 13 February 1996 all service stock AppleCD 600i drives have the latest firmware.

You can identify the manufacturer and firmware revision of your CD-ROM drive by using SCSI Probe, FWB's Hard Disk Toolkit, or similar SCSI utility. You can also use PC Exchange to determine the ROM version of your internal CD-ROM drive:

Step 1

Open the PC Exchange control panel.

Step 2

Click the Options button in the lower right corner.

Step 3

The version of your drive will be listed under the Device Name section of the PC Exchange Options Window.

If CR-8004 is listed, then the drive has the older ROM version.

If CR-8005 is listed, then the drive has the newer ROM version (v2.0d or later).

Here are several issues related to playback of multisession CD-ROM titles that you must first consider before replacing the CD-ROM drive.

CD-ROM Setup Software

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You should install the latest version of CD-ROM Setup (this should be version 5.1.2 or greater), for complete compatibility with multisession data CD-ROM discs.

Titles Created with Apple Media Tool

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CD-ROM Discs created with Apple Media Tool version 1.2 and below. Many of these titles have a problem known as the AMK Spinning Cursor Bug. This is fixed with the software of the same name posted in Apple SW Updates area of online services.

CD Plus Standards

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Before the end of 1995, there was no CD+ standard set by Apple, Microsoft, Sony, and Philips, so few CD-ROM discs currently on the market conform completely with the Blue Book standard.

Interactive Music Formats

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There are several formats of interactive music CD-ROM discs on the market.

- Yellow Book CD-ROM only.
- Yellow Book CD-ROM Hybrid with Red Book audio tracks that may damage audio players, or users ears.
- Hybrid discs with CD-ROM and Red Book audio tracks, known as a track 0 solution.
- Hybrid discs with Macintosh and Windows partitions - ISO-9660 compatible.
- Multisession CD-ROMs with separate CD-ROM and Red Book audio volumes.
- Blue Book standard discs by whatever name it is called. These CD-ROM discs will be stamped multisession discs with Red Book audio tracks.

Corel Drivers and CD-ROM Setup

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The Corel Drivers for Enhanced CD that come with the Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits Volume 3 are intended for non-Apple CD-ROM drives. The Corel CD contains a

multimedia update, which is the Apple Multimedia Tuner used prior to QuickTime 2.1 to fix some older problems in QuickTime 2.0, and is unrelated to CD Plus discs. This should not be installed. The Corel CD also contains Apple's CD-ROM Setup 5.1.1. This driver should also not be used, and instead you should get CD-ROM Setup 5.1.2 from Apple SW Updates.

Note: Some of the above information is also contained in the Public Technical Information Library (TIL) article, "AppleCD 600: Issues With CD Plus (CD+) Discs".

These articles can help you locate the software update mentioned here:

- "Where To Find Apple Software Updates" - Lists online services for free Apple software updates.
- "Obtaining Apple Product Support in the USA" - Lists 800 numbers and online services for software updates, Apple support information, and a subset of the Apple Tech Info Library.

Article Change History:

- 19 Aug 1996 - Corrected misspelling.
- 31 May 1996 - Added information on ROM version in PC Exchange.
- 13 Feb 1996 - Added note about service stock.

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