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Macintosh PC Exchange: Disk Formatting Progress Bar (10/94)

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TOPIC -----

With Macintosh PC Exchange 2.0.3 installed in my Macintosh, I noticed a progress bar during the disk format process. This spurred a few questions:

- 1) What's actually going on with the space available slider? Is it marking out bad blocks?
- 2) Would the 1197K format have been reliable? Will the current 1.44 MB format be reliable?
- 3) I seem to recall that formatting using MS-DOS and going back to Macintosh format would sometimes rescue slightly damaged floppies... Any comments here?

DISCUSSION -----

Here are the answers:

- 1) The sliding dialog appears when a disk is damaged and PC Exchange is formatting out bad blocks. Formatting out bad blocks takes longer than a regular format so the engineers elected to put in this sliding scale and allow the customers the option to quit the format process.
- 2) Yes the partial format is reliable, but personally I don't recommend saving data to a diskette that is partially damaged. Damaged diskettes seems to gradually lose more blocks depending on the reason for the damage.
- 3) No comments. I could see where that may hide problems, but they may also arise again. Once again as in question 2, we always recommend that if a diskette is damaged, resccue the files to another disk ASAP and don't use the disk for any important operations.

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