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CD-ROM Booting: Questions and Answers (5/96)

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TOPIC -----

- 1) How can a CD be the startup disk for any system equipped with a CD-ROM drive?
- 2) Do the CD-ROM drivers have to be loaded first before you can use the CD? Are the drivers in ROM?
- 3) Can you explain the start up sequence?
- 4) Why can I not make my own bootable CD-ROM by simply making a duplicate mirror image of my computer's internal HD on a write-only CD?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) Any Apple system (Macintosh IIci or newer) equipped with an Apple compatible CD-ROM drive (that works with Apple's CD-ROM driver) can startup from the Install Me First CD-ROM. For detailed instructions reference the article, "Macintosh: Starting From Floppy or CD-ROM Disk," Article 0018059 in the Tech Info Library.
- 2) Yes, the CD-ROM drivers have to be loaded before you can use the CD. The drivers are read from the driver partition locate on the CD-ROM.
- 3) When the Macintosh starts up it loads in the drivers of the peripherals attached to the SCSI bus. The drivers are located in the driver partition of each peripheral. When the driver is loaded a simple test is performed to check that the driver loaded will access the peripheral as expected.
- 4) An image copy would not work because the CD driver code on the CD, and the driver code on the HD, are different. The hard drive image has the hard drive driver code. (Apple considers the technology to create an Apple bootable CD to be proprietary information.)

Article Change History:

23 May 1996 - Changed reference to TIL article.

18 Nov 1993 - Added question 4.

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