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Apple FDHD: Formatting PS/2 720K Disks in 1.44 Drives

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TOPIC -----

- 1) PS/2 machines with 1.44MB drives will, by default, initialize double-sided dual-density disks to the 1.44MB format when the unsuspecting user simply types FORMAT A:.
- 2) IBM recommends against this and refers the user to the MS-DOS documentation for the proper arcane FORMAT options needed to properly format double-sided dual-density disks.
- 3) Most users don't know about any of this and use FORMAT A: just like they used to.
- 4) Entire departments are, therefore, evolving collections of double-sided dual-density disks that are readable on PS/2 machines and unreadable on Macintoshes (so much for data exchange).
- 5) Apple's choices are clear:
 - a) Embark on a massive PS/2 user education program.
 - b) Make a "best effort" try to read the disks (possibly with an informative alert).

RESPONSE -----

This is not a problem with AFE. Apple designed the drive to work properly, and it looks for the "bonus hole" to determine whether a disk is high-density. The drive design will not be changed.

Installations with PS/2 machines should make an effort to educate users in proper way to format disks instead of trying to find a patch and jeopardize their data integrity.

The command to format a DOS disk as 720K in a 1.44MB drive is:

```
FORMAT A:/N:9/T:80
```

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