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Apple IIGS: What to Check If the Finder is Starting Very Slowly

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When the Apple IIGS Finder starts very slowly, perhaps even seeming to be locked up, there are a number of things you can do:

- Limit the number of files/folders at the root level of the hard disk to fifty or less.
- Limit the number of files in any given folder to 50-60. This allows a reasonable number of files in a folder without any undue amount of time opening and displaying the folder. (These 50-60 files within folders can be other folders.)
- Displaying the file names by Name or Date, rather than by icon, take less time.
- Check the Control Panel and be sure there is no RAM set aside for RAM Disk. Memory is needed to build the table for displaying the files. If you have any of the RAM card assigned as RAM Disk, you will take up memory space needed to build this table. Normally this would give you an out of memory error message, but something else may be happening before the error is displayed.

When the Finder is requested to open a window, it must calculate the regions for every file/folder to show, so it knows where in the window it goes, and whether or not to display it, given the current size of the window, not to mention what color it needs to be. This can take a long time. Seven hundred files/folders could take hours to show up in the window on the screen.

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