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Macintosh: How To Bypass Internal Hard Disk At Startup (5/96)

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Revised:        5/23/96
Security:       Everyone


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TOPIC -----------------------------------------------------------

How can I bypass the internal hard disk at startup?  I know the Macintosh
will boot from a floppy disk if I insert one.  But what if I want to boot
from an external hard disk or CD-ROM?


DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------

There's a way to start up your system from the next bootable SCSI device
in the chain (an external hard disk, CD-ROM, and so on), or floppy disk,
while keeping the internal hard disk off line.  There's no way to start a
Macintosh without also powering on the internal hard disk.

Note:  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.


Examples -- When You Need to Bypass the Hard Disk
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You might want to bypass the hard disk when trying out some new software of
dubious origin on a floppy disk.  It's also useful in a situation where the
proper System Enabler is no longer in your internal hard disk System
Folder, but is in the System Folder of some other device in the SCSI chain.


How To Do It
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Hold down four (yes, four!) keys while you start up:

   Command-Shift-Option-Delete

In the case of a compact Macintosh, with its power switch in the back of
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the main unit, you'll have to either get someone to help you, or use a
pencil clamped in your teeth as a "third hand."

The system starts up from the floppy disk or the next bootable SCSI
device in the chain beginning with ID 6, and the internal hard disk doesn't
even appear on the desktop.

Article Change History
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23 May 1996 - Added reference to booting from CD-ROM drive
21 May 1993 - REVISED
              • To include an example, and to mention CD-ROMs and other
                devices that may be present in a SCSI chain.

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