



Tech Info Library

ProDOS 8: How To Find Disk, Controller, and Block Information

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This article describes how to find disk information, by making calls to significant memory locations.

Is the Card a Disk Controller?

Check memory locations \$Cs01, \$Cs03, \$Cs05 (s = slot number) for \$20, \$00, and \$03, respectively. If these values are found, then the card in the slot is a disk controller.

Apple Disk II Disk Controller and Disk Capacity?

Check memory location \$CsFF. If the value is \$00 or \$FF, assume that an Apple Disk II disk controller card is installed (\$00 is 16-sector, \$FF is 13-sector).

SmartPort Device and Number of Blocks?

If the device is not an Apple Disk II disk controller card, check memory location \$Cs07. If the value does not equal \$00, the device is not a SmartPort device, and the total number of blocks for the drive are stored at memory locations \$CsFC and \$CsFD in low-byte/high-byte order.

If the total number of blocks is 0, contact the card manufacturer for details on how to determine the number of blocks. (Note: We do not know of any disk controller that does not store the total number of blocks at memory locations \$CsFC and \$CsFD.)

If the value at memory location \$Cs07 is \$00, the drive is a SmartPort device. To find the number of blocks on the drive, you must make SmartPort status call \$03 (get DIB). This call is documented in the "Apple IIGS Firmware Reference Manual" on pages 114 through 125 with the most specific information starting on page 121.

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