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System 7: Hardware and Memory Requirements

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Article Change History
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09/16/92 - REVIEWED
              • For technical accuracy.



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

What hardware do I need to run System 7?

DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------
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System 7.0 runs on all Macintosh computers with 2MB of RAM and a hard
drive. If you have a Macintosh with a 68030 microprocessor (or a 68020
with a PMMU), you can also take advantage of virtual memory (VM).

On a 2MB Macintosh running System 7.0, you have enough RAM (750K to
1024K) to run one moderate-size application like a word processor or
spreadsheet. With a 2MB Macintosh SE running System 7:

• You always have access to the desktop

• You can use most of the features of System 7

• You have about the same amount of memory for applications as you did
  under System 6 with 1MB of RAM.

Further, a System 7 Macintosh is as fast as a System 6 Macintosh SE, and
even faster in many important operations like copying files.

Note: Turning file sharing on reduces memory available for applications by
about 200K. Using on-board video on a Macintosh IIsi and Macintosh IIci
can consume over 300K of memory when the monitor is set to 8-bit color.

How you use your Macintosh computer affects how much memory you will need. This makes it difficult to make a memory recommendation for a particular user.

Taking advantage of other specific features of System 7 may require other hardware like a network, color monitor, and so on.

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