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System 7: Can't Run from Single 800K Floppy Disk

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Revised:        9/26/91
Security:       Everyone
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Article Change History

08/18/92 - CORRECTED

   • To clarify that a high density (1.4MB) startup floppy is
     possible.

TOPIC ---

Is there a way to create a bootable floppy of System 7?

If not, what is Apple's recommendation for doing diagnostics in the event
of a system hang on startup or a hard disk crash?

DISCUSSION --

It is not possible to create an 800K system startup floppy disk, though a
high density (1.4MB) floppy will hold a minimal System 7. For those
Macintoshes that have an Apple (FDHD) SuperDrive, making a bootable floppy
is simply a matter of running the System 7 Installer program, choosing
customize, and selecting "Min System" for your Macintosh model.

The initial recommendation for troubleshooting System 7 is to hold down the
Shift key on startup to temporarily disable any system extensions (INITs).
Some other suggestions for system software troubleshooting:

1. Attach an external hard drive that has System 7 on it and set
   startup. Make sure this hard drive has appropriate and latest virus
   checkers installed.

2. Run standard hardware diagnostics to check the hardware.

3. Completely replace the System 7 software if removing the system
    extensions doesn't help. This is where it might be useful to have a
    1.4MB startup floppy, so that you can at least get to the hard disk to
    remove the damaged system files and set aside other files you want to
    save.

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