Tech Info Library

Partitioning Large Hard Drives into Smaller Blocks (8/95)

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Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

The minimum file size on my 2 GB drive is 32K, and I would like to make it
smaller, but I can't seem to do it with HDSC setup. Why is the file size so
large, and what can I do to make it smaller?

DISCUSSION --

In both the Macintosh and DOS environments, the maximum number of blocks on a
drive is 65,536 because both Operating Systems address the allocation blocks
with a 16-bit address. Drives larger than 512 MB cannot use a block size of 8K
or less because there just aren't enough addresses. Thus, if a 2 GB drive is one
Macintosh partition, the smallest file size allowed will be 32k. (If you saved a
TeachText file with one character, it would take up 32k of disk space.) This can
waste a lot of space on large drives that have a lot of small files.

One solution to this problem would be to partition larger drives into smaller
partitions or logical drives, each with a maximum of 65,536 blocks. Apple's
Drive Setup can be used to partition qualified Apple hard drives and some
removable devices as listed in the Drive Setup Guide file. Unsupported hard
drives will show up in the device list by name, however, if you select an
unsupported hard drive you will get the message, "Cannot modify a disk in an
unsupported drive."

Also, Drive Setup is supported on all of the Power Macintosh computers. This
includes the original Power Macintosh computers and the new PCI-based Power
Macintosh computers. Drive Setup is also supported on 68LC040 processor-based
systems that have IDE drives installed. Drive Setup is not supported with the
Power Macintosh Upgrade Card.

There are third-party companies that offer solutions for creating multiple
Macintosh partitions. A few that we know of are:

Begin_Table

Hard Disk Toolkit (HDT)   by FWB Software, Inc.
SilverLining   by LaCie Ltd.
Micronet Utility   by MicroNet Technology
MicroTech Utility   by MicroTech International

End_Table

The Tech Info Library article titled "Locating Vendor Information" can help you
search for a particular vendor's address and phone number.

Article Change History:
30 Aug 1995 - Added Apple's Drive Setup information.
20 Jun 1994 - Typo fix.

Support Information Services

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