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PowerBook, SCSI Manager 4.3, and FWB Driver Problem (10/94)

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TOPIC -----

I'm experiencing crashes when using a PowerBook attached to a Power Macintosh as a SCSI disk. I have System Software 7.5 installed, and all of my hard disks are formatted with FWB, Inc.'s Hard Disk Toolkit.

Sometimes when I try copying a file to the PowerBook's hard disk, I crash. Why does this happen, and is there a work around?

DISCUSSION -----

The problem you are having is the result of the combination of features in the FWB driver, SCSI Manager 4.3, and PowerBook computers.

The technical circumstances appear to be as follows: Some SCSI hard disks, such as those in PowerBook computers, have the ability to "disconnect" from the SCSI bus. This allows them to do other things, such as shutting down to save power. When the PowerBook is being used, the hard disk can start and stop running as needed to save power. When the PowerBook is used in SCSI disk mode, the hard disk should remain active.

The FWB driver software is able to take advantage of the "disconnect" feature of these hard disks. When the FWB driver is installed, the ability to disconnect from the SCSI bus is enabled, as a default setting.

"Desktop" Macintosh computers didn't previously have the ability to disconnect hard disks from the SCSI bus as a normal part of the system software. However, SCSI Manager 4.3 does have support for this ability. SCSI Manager 4.3 is now able to detect that a hard disk has the ability to disconnect, and it may allow the hard disk to disconnect from the SCSI bus.

FWB's work around is to reinstall the driver with the "Allow Disconnect" feature turned off. The work around for this can be found in the "Read Me" file that came with FWB Hard Disk Toolkit v1.6. The details of the work around vary,

depending on whether you are using the regular Hard Disk Toolkit or the "Personal Edition."

The details from FWB on how to do this are as follows:

For the regular product, you should run the "HDT Primer" application and choose "Configure Driver" from the "Driver" menu. The user can then disable the "Allow Disconnect" option.

For the "Personal Edition", users should hold down the Shift, Control, Option, and Command keys while clicking on the File menu of FWB's application. The user should then choose the "Update Driver" menu option. A dialog box called "Driver Configuration Parameters" will appear on the screen. At the bottom of the dialog box, there is a check box with no words next to it. Disabling this check box disables the "Allow Disconnect" functionality.

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