



Tech Info Library

PowerBook 5300 Series: Read Me File (4/97)

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TOPIC -----

The following is the ReadMe file for the PowerBook 5300 Series computers.

DISCUSSION -----

Important Information About Your Macintosh PowerBook 5300 Series Computer

Congratulations on purchasing your Macintosh PowerBook 5300 series computer. This document adds to and updates the information in the manuals that came with your computer. It is a good idea to read this document now, and keep a copy handy for future reference.

If your PowerBook is connected to a printer, choose Print from the File menu to print a copy of this document. When you are finished reading and printing, choose Quit from the File menu to quit the SimpleText application program.

Contents
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Tips

- Charging your battery
- Using the Battery Monitor in the Control Strip
- Using the trackpad
- Using a modem
- Using expansion bay modules
- Using PC Cards
- Using a DOS-formatted PC Card
- Using your PowerBook in SCSI disk mode
- Using Apple IR File Exchange
- Using the Password Security control panel
- Printing

Troubleshooting

- Problems starting your PowerBook
- Resetting the parameter RAM (PRAM)
- Using Drive Setup
- Using Acrobat Reader after installing QuickDraw GX
- Using Apple Remote Access
- Incorrect Guide File Balloons
- Using a DigiSign Signature Card with PowerTalk
- AppleShare Displays Incorrect Information for Large Drives
- AppleShare Server Software Version 4.1
- Application Programs Using Sound
- Using QuickDraw GX with a Fax Modem
- Using PowerTalk and PowerTalk Direct Dialup Mail
- Using the Japanese or Chinese Language Kit

Important Information About Virtual Memory

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Tips

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Charging your battery

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You should connect the power adapter to your computer and let the battery charge overnight when you first unpack your computer. (The battery may have been depleted between the time it was charged at the factory and the time you purchased the computer.)

Using the Battery Monitor in the Control Strip

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- The estimated time remaining that is displayed in the Battery Monitor portion of the Control Strip depends on the charge remaining and the battery consumption rate. The battery consumption rate depends on the software and hardware features you are using.
- The battery icon in the Battery Monitor portion of the Control Strip may show the battery as charging even after the PowerBook has been plugged in for a while. This is normal for Lithium Ion (Li+) batteries.

Using the trackpad

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If the trackpad seems unresponsive, try the following in the order listed:

Step 1

Put your PowerBook to sleep (by closing the display) and then wake it up (by pressing any key on the keyboard).

Step 2

Press the reset button on the back of the computer.

Step 3

Reset the parameter RAM (PRAM) (see the section in Troubleshooting below for instructions).

Step 4

Attach an external mouse.

Using a modem

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- To improve modem performance, turn off LocalTalk in the Network control panel.
- Modem connection files for various PC Card modems that will work with Apple Remote Access (ARA) are included on your computer's hard disk. If a file for your modem is not included, please contact your communications software manufacturer to see if your modem is supported. See the user's manual that came with your computer for more information on using PC Card modems.
- When accessing the Internet using the InterSLIP protocol, use the 14.4K baud rate rather than the 28.8K baud rate for better performance. The actual throughput at 14.4K baud is higher than at 28.8K baud.

Using expansion bay modules

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Never remove a floppy disk from the expansion bay module while the PowerBook is in sleep. You may damage the disk or lose data.

Using PC Cards

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- For best results, purchase only cards that have been qualified for use on a Macintosh computer. If you are in the United States, you can receive a faxed list of currently available PC Cards by calling 1-800-462-4396 and requesting document 10307. You can call this number anytime. In Canada, call 1-800-263-3394 and request document 10307. Outside the United States and Canada, please consult your Apple-authorized dealer.
- Don't use an SRAM storage card as a startup disk on your PowerBook. Use SRAM cards for extra storage only.
- If you are using a mass storage PC Card, you can only eject the card using the eject buttons when the computer is shut down. The eject buttons will not work with storage PC Cards when the computer is turned on.
- Never eject a PC Card manually (with a paper clip) while the PowerBook is in sleep. You may damage the card or lose data.

Using a DOS-formatted PC Card

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If your PowerBook has the Macintosh PC Exchange control panel installed and PC

Exchange is turned on, you can use a PC Card that has been pre-formatted in a DOS format in your PowerBook. However, you cannot start up your computer using the DOS-formatted PC Card; you can only start up your computer using a Mac OS-formatted PC Card. If you want to reformat your DOS-formatted PC Card as a Mac OS-formatted PC Card, you need to turn PC Exchange off, and then format the card as you would any non-Mac OS-formatted disk. Follow these steps:

Step 1

Choose Control Panels from the Apple menu.

Step 2

Open the PC Exchange control panel.

Step 3

Click the Off button and close the PC Exchange control panel.

Step 4

Insert your PC Card. A window appears asking if you want to initialize (format) the disk.

Step 5

Click Initialize to format the PC Card. Once the PC Card is reformatted, you can turn Macintosh PC Exchange back on in the PC Exchange control panel.

You cannot reformat a Mac OS-formatted PC Card as a DOS-formatted PC Card with PC Exchange. To do so, you need to use a DOS/Windows computer with PC Card capabilities.

Using your PowerBook in SCSI disk mode

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- Using Norton Utilities Speed Disk or Disk Doctor from a desktop computer on your PowerBook while it is in SCSI disk mode may cause the desktop computer to crash or freeze. To avoid this problem, create an emergency startup floppy disk using Norton Utilities and then use that disk to startup your PowerBook.
- You cannot use password protection on your PowerBook while the PowerBook is in SCSI disk mode. Turn off password protection in the Password Security control panel before connecting your PowerBook in SCSI disk mode.

Using Apple IR File Exchange

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Apple IR File Exchange provides a very simple way to exchange files with another IR-equipped Macintosh user.

- If you use Apple IR File Exchange with a computer that is equipped with a third-party IR device and is also connected to a wired network (for example, a LocalTalk or Ethernet network), you may see other Apple IR File Exchange users that are beyond your local IR network. If you want to prevent this from

happening, select IRTalk in the Network control panel on the computer that is connected to the wired network. (This will have the effect of disconnecting that computer from the wired network. See the manufacturer's manual for more details.)

- If you see a dialog box telling you there is a broken connection, make sure that both you and the other Apple IR File Exchange user select the same option (either "break connection" or "continue"). If the other user breaks the connection and you try to continue, your computer may appear to hang for 2 minutes while it tries unsuccessfully to reestablish the connection.
- When you select IRTalk in the Network control panel, your computer chooses a random network address. Occasionally, you may come within range of another computer using the same network address and experience difficulty communicating with it.

When this occurs, you'll see a dialog box telling you that a duplicate AppleTalk address has been detected. Click OK in the dialog box, then open the Network control panel and select IRTalk again. This will give your computer a new network address and will correct the problem. (Alternately, you can activate and inactivate AppleTalk from the Control Strip or the Chooser.)

Using the Password Security Control Panel

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The Password Security control panel provides security for information stored on your hard disk. To use this feature, you must enter a password and turn it on. If you forget or lose your password, you will not be able to access your hard disk. Should you lose your password, you may be charged for assistance.

You cannot use your PowerBook in SCSI disk mode with password protection turned on in the Password Security control panel. You must turn it off before using your PowerBook in SCSI disk mode.

Information stored on PC Cards is not protected by password security. Password security is designed to prevent casual access to your hard drive. It does not provide encryption.

Printing

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If you are printing on a network printer, make sure you have the same version of printer software as others on the network. If you are using a StyleWriter II on a network, make sure you use the StyleWriter 2.0 printer driver. (Printer drivers are found in the Extensions folder).

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Troubleshooting

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Problems starting your PowerBook

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If you have problems starting your PowerBook immediately after you shut it down

(for instance, you see the "Sad Mac" icon on the screen), wait several seconds after shutting down, and then press the Power key to turn the computer on again.

Resetting the parameter RAM (PRAM)

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When you need to reset (or "zap") your PowerBook's PRAM, follow the steps below. Note that resetting the PRAM erases the contents of your RAM disk, if you have one. Resetting the PRAM also restores the default settings in most control panels. After you reset the PRAM, be sure to check any custom settings you made for the desktop pattern, memory, network, AppleTalk, trackpad, power conservation, and so forth. Resetting the PRAM also resets the power manager. Follow these steps to reset the PRAM:

Step 1

Locate the keys Command, Option, P, and R.

Step 2

Make sure the Caps Lock key is not down.

Step 3

Restart your Macintosh. Immediately after hearing the startup sound, press the Command, Option, P, and R keys simultaneously. If you don't hold down the key combination within 5-10 seconds after you restart, you may need to repeat steps 1-3.

Step 4

Hold down the keys until you hear the startup sound. Then release the keys.

Step 5

If the computer shuts itself off, press the Reset key on the back of your computer to turn it back on. 6. When the computer has finished starting up, you may need to restore control panel settings as well as network and printer settings in the Chooser.

Using Drive Setup

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Make sure you only use the Drive Setup application program that comes with your PowerBook to update and partition hard disks. If you use an earlier version of Drive Setup (called HDSC Setup) you could damage your computer.

Using Acrobat Reader after installing QuickDraw GX

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Once you install QuickDraw GX, you need to reinstall Acrobat Reader on your computer in order to use it. Double-click the Acrobat Reader Installer icon in the Adobe Acrobat Reader folder (inside the Applications folder).

Using Apple Remote Access

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Make sure you use only Apple Remote Access Client version 2.0.1 on your PowerBook. Earlier versions will not work.

Incorrect Guide File Balloons

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Your system software includes Apple Guide documents which provide on-screen instructions and other information to help you use your computer. However, if you turn on Balloon Help (by choosing Show Balloons from the Guide menu) and point to a Guide file icon on the hard disk, the balloon may give you the wrong information about where the file belongs or what you can do with it. To avoid being misled by incorrect balloons, follow the guidelines below:

- Leave Guide files where they are. Some Guide files (for example, the Guide file named "Macintosh Guide") belong in the Extensions folder. Others will not work if they are put into the Extensions folder.
- Keep application programs that have Guide files in the same folder as the Guide file. For example, keep the file named "File Assistant Guide" in the same folder as the File Assistant program. If you move a Guide file that belongs with an application program, you won't be able to get help while using the program.

Using a DigiSign Signature Card with PowerTalk

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To use the Apple DigiSign Utility with PowerTalk, follow these steps:

Step 1

Turn off processor cycling in the PowerBook control panel. To see the option for processor cycling, hold down the option key while you select Custom in the PowerBook control panel.

Step 2

Follow the steps for creating a Signer file. If you need help, select "How do I obtain a valid Signer file?" in the Digital Signatures topic of the PowerTalk Guide.

Step 3

Turn processor cycling back on in the PowerBook control panel.

AppleShare displays incorrect information for large drives

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If you use file sharing to connect to a disk attached to another computer, and the shared disk is larger than 2 gigabytes (GB), the Get Info box for that disk shows an incorrect size. (Get Info reports the disk to be 2 GB in size, even if it is larger.)

AppleShare Server software version 4.1

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If you purchase AppleShare server software version 4.1, make sure to choose Custom Install (instead of Easy Install) when you install it.

NOTE: This note is not part of the original Read Me, it is being added to correct information presented here. AppleShare 4.1 or later is not sold separately and is available when purchasing a Workgroup Server. Also AppleShare v 4.1 or 4.2 is not supported on these computers.

Application programs using sound

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If you have application programs that make extensive use of sound, you should turn off virtual memory while using those programs. When virtual memory is turned on, it can compromise the programs' sound quality.

Some older versions of programs, especially games, may generate sounds that seem too slow or too fast. For best results with these programs, open the Sound control panel, choose Sound Out from the pop-up menu, and set the sample rate to 22.050 kHz.

Using QuickDraw GX with a fax modem

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If you installed QuickDraw GX and you have a fax modem, you need a QuickDraw GX modem driver in order to send faxes. Contact the fax software manufacturer to obtain the QuickDraw GX driver.

If you have installed QuickDraw GX and do not yet have the QuickDraw GX modem driver, you can temporarily turn off QuickDraw GX and use your previous fax modem driver. To turn off QuickDraw GX:

Step 1

Hold down the Space bar while you choose Restart from the Special menu to restart your PowerBook. Continue to hold down the Space bar until the Extensions Manager appears on the screen.

Step 2

Click the QuickDraw GX extension to remove the check beside it. This prevents the QuickDraw GX software from loading.

Step 3

Click the close box in the Extensions Manager window to resume startup. Your fax modem should work normally. You won't be able to use any QuickDraw GX features until you turn the extension back on again.

Using PowerTalk and PowerTalk Direct Dialup Mail

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If you use PowerTalk Direct Dialup Mail and have trouble sending a fax, it may be because both Direct Dialup and STF PowerFax PE are set to auto-answer. To turn off STF auto-answer, open the STF Setup window and set 'n' to "never" (in the "Answer on 'n' rings" section).

Using the Japanese or Chinese Language Kit

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Before you install the Japanese or Chinese Language Kit software, you need to install World Script. Follow these steps:

Step 1

Double-click the Apple Extras folder to open it.

Step 2

Double-click the World Script Install folder to open it.

Step 3

Double-click the World Script Installer icon. Follow the instructions on the screen.

Step 4

Follow the instructions that came with the language kit to install the language kit software.

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Important Information About Virtual Memory

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Virtual memory (VM) is a feature of the Macintosh that lets you use part of your hard disk as additional memory. If you are using an application program designed especially for Power Macintosh computers (often called a "native" application program), turning on virtual memory may help you avoid running out of memory.

Your computer comes with virtual memory turned on. With virtual memory turned on, a Power Macintosh program uses less memory than when virtual memory is turned off. If you check the program's Get Info box before and after turning on virtual memory, you'll see that the numbers in the Memory Requirements box change. That is because turning on virtual memory allows the program to use memory more efficiently.

If you notice performance problems using certain programs, you may want to turn off virtual memory. You may also want to turn virtual memory off from time to time to extend work time while using the battery. You can turn virtual memory on and off in the Memory control panel. For specific information on how to turn virtual memory on and off, choose Macintosh Guide from the Guide (question mark) menu, and click the Memory topic area. Then click "How do I use hard disk space as memory?" and "How do I manage Power Macintosh memory?"

For best performance, try setting virtual memory to no more than 150% of the amount of physical memory (RAM), or no more than 50% of your currently available hard disk space, whichever number is lower. For example, if your computer has 16 MB of RAM and your hard drive has 50 MB of available space, set virtual memory

to a maximum of 24 MB (150% of 16, which is less than 50% of 50).

Note: You cannot set virtual memory to more than 1024 MB, even if you have 1 gigabyte or more available space on your hard disk.

To improve performance, you can also add physical memory (RAM) to your computer. See the user's manual that came with your computer for more information.

Article Change History:

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18 Dec 1995 - Added correction to AppleShare section.

25 Aug 1995 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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