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Apple DOS And PC Compatibility Cards: Where Is BIOS? (4/97)

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Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

This article describes the Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) on the DOS
Compatibility Card and the PC Compatibility Card.

DISCUSSION ---

The BIOS code is actually stored as a resource in the PC Setup control panel and
loaded into CMOS on the card when the booted. Because of this design, it is
possible to update the BIOS by installing a new BIOS resource into the PC Setup
control panel.

The CMOS on the card is volatile. Therefore, every time the Macintosh is shut
down the CMOS on the card is erased. Note that just shutting down the PC or
restarting the Macintosh is not sufficient to drain CMOS. The Macintosh must be
completely powered off. Also note that it may take several minutes for the
memory to be lost. When the Macintosh is powered up again, the CMOS is restored
by the PC Setup control panel.

There is no user support for changing BIOS settings, such as adding password
protection and the like. If you were able to actually look at the settings you
would see that there are no drives. Further, if you were to change the BIOS so
that drive A: is a floppy and drive C: is something else, the floppy drive would
not work and the PC might not boot.

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