Apple Service - Troubleshoot and Repair

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TITLE

Macintosh: Blinking Question Mark at Startup

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TOPIC

My iMac displays a Flashing question mark when I first power it on, then after a few seconds it continues to boot. Is this normal?

Note: This article also applies to Power Macintosh and PowerBook computers introduced after iMac.

DISCUSSION

Yes, this is normal behavior for the computer if a startup disk has not been selected in the Startup Disk control panel. The blinking question mark does not usually indicate a problem with the computer. Rather, it is displayed while the computer is looking for the System Folder to start up the computer.

If your computer appears to function properly in all other respects, this issue is easily resolved by opening the Startup Disk control panel and selecting your internal hard disk as the startup disk. This directs the Mac OS ROM to the use the selected volume and system folder to start up the computer.

EXTENDED Information - Apple Internal Use - Service Providers and Support Professional

Document Information
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