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Apple MultiMedia Tuner: What it does and what it fixes (3/95)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the Apple Multimedia Tuner extension and what it does.

DISCUSSION -----

Apple Multimedia Tuner 2.0.1

What is the Apple Multimedia Tuner?

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The Apple Multimedia Tuner system extension includes a set of software enhancements that improve the performance and reliability of some software applications and multimedia titles that utilize QuickTime 2.0 and Sound Manager 3.0 software.

System software compatibility

The Tuner is compatible with all system software versions from System 6.0.7 through System 7.5.

Hardware compatibility

The Tuner is compatible across all CPU families that support QuickTime.

Specific problems addressed by the Apple Multimedia Tuner

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Provided workaround for incorrect movie pre-rolling by some applications

Several applications and titles, most notably titles created using Macromedia's Director, have not been properly pre-rolling movies to prepare them for playback. This resulted in jerky movie playback. Prior versions of QuickTime

were tolerant of this application bug; however, QuickTime 2.0 with its higher performance requires that movies be pre-rolled. The Tuner will help these applications by automatically pre-rolling movies under many situations.

Fixed some performance problems that resulted in "jerky" movie playback

Under low-memory conditions, some parts of the movie toolbox were not managing memory efficiently and movie playback performance was degraded. These problems were showing up in Adobe Premiere 4.0.x..

Fixed DrawPicture problem on 68K systems

Fixed problem in DrawPicture where qdErr was not being cleared in all cases. The Tuner patches DrawPicture to ensure that qdErr is always cleared on entry. This patch is only installed on 68K CPUs.

DSP Manager problem on 660AV & 840AV systems

The DSP Manager calls the Memory Manager from interrupt level. This is completely illegal to do and was causing some memory mgr errors to be lost. The Tuner patches the DSP Manager to detect and avoid this situation. Problem was originally driven by Adobe Premiere 4.0.x.

Fixed problem where some images were not being decompressed

Fixed a problem (originally driven by the New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia) that resulted in some compressed images not being decompressed due to a bug in the Image Compression Manager. The problem resulted in blank pictures instead of the desired image.

Unable to open Sound Channels in some "low-memory" situations

Several developers reported problems being able to open Sound Channels under certain memory conditions (mainly when there was very little System Heap available). The Tuner installs code that helps the Sound Manager find the needed memory by attempting to allocate out of the application heap.

Fixed flatten movie problem

Flattening certain types of movies would result in movies that had garbled video tracks.

Sound "break-up" problems fixed

Fixed some performance problems that were causing sound drop outs in certain situations.

Fixed problem decompressing some types of pictures

Some types of images were garbled when decompressed.

Other Problems fixed

Fixed problem importing some types of picture files
Fixed problem saving looped movies
Fixed problem with garbled movie preview displays
Fixed problem sending QuickTime movies in AppleMail

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