Tech Info Library

Macintosh: Directory size

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Revised:        7/17/85
Security:       Everyone
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Since the Macintosh's directory uses variable amounts of storage space to
maintain file names, it's possible to run out of "disk space" to store file
names when there is plenty of storage space for the data itself. In fact, you
can run out of directory space just by changing the name of a file to a longer
one.

To free up all available storage space for your files: 1) shorten the names of
your files as much as possible, and then 2) move all documents to another
diskette, then erase the original diskette and move the documents back onto it.

NOTE: Some third-party applications don't handle this situation in a very
      friendly manner: the system may bomb due to the lack of directory space
      and not inform you why it bombed. If you suspect that lack of directory
      space may be your problem--that is, if your disk is fairly full--perform
      the two steps described above before you assume the problem is something
       else.

Apple Technical Communications

Tech Info Library Article Number:1200