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Macintosh 64K and 128K ROMs: Startup Differences

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Article Change History

09/07/92 - REVISED
        • For clarity and relevance. Focused article on Mac 512K since
          it's the only Macintosh to which this article applies.
09/07/92 - RETITLED
        • Changed title to reflect new focus of article.

TOPIC --

How can I tell what ROMs a Macintosh 512K has? What are some differences
that I can see without looking at the logic board?

DISCUSSION ---

The 64K ROMs and 128K ROMs have different ways of starting up and looking
for the System file on a disk.

To tell if your Macintosh 512K has 64K or 128K ROMs, check either of the
following:

  1. Choose "About the Finder" in the Apple Menu. At the bottom left
     corner of the box that appears, the amount of RAM (in K) that the
     Macintosh has will be displayed.

     a. A K without a period following it indicates the 64K ROMs.

     b. A K with a period following it indicates the 128K ROMs.

  2. Look at the title bar of any window.

     a. Windows with only a close box in the title bar indicate the

        64K ROMs.

    b. Windows with a close box and a resize or zoom box in the title
       bar indicate the 128K ROMs.

Now that you can identify which ROMs are in your Macintosh, here's how
each type boots:

  1. Macintosh 512K with 64K ROMs

     The startup procedure looks first at the internal floppy drive and
     then the external drive. If the Macintosh does not find the System
     file on a disk in the internal drive, it ejects the disk there and
     looks to the external drive. If there is no system file on the disk
     in the external drive, that disk is also ejected.

     The Hard Disk 20 Startup disk in the internal drive will load
     the HFS file system and drivers into memory and eject the disk if
     there is a system folder on the HD 20.

  2. Macintosh Plus or Macintosh 512K Extended with 128K ROMs

     The startup procedure looks for a valid system folder in these
     devices in the following order:

     a. Internal floppy disk drive
     b. External floppy disk drive
     c. Hard Disk 20 (System Folder)
     d. SCSI devices

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