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Macintosh IIci, IIfx, IIsi, LC: Memory Manager Performance

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TOPIC -----

A customer reported that a Macintosh IIfx took 12-13 minutes to load and display an Adobe PhotoShop file. A Macintosh IIfx took 1-2 minutes to load and display the same file. The customer was not using the black terminator, or the internal SCSI filter on the Macintosh IIfx. After the customer installed these, the Macintosh IIfx performed as expected.

DISCUSSION-----

There is a minor problem in the Memory Manager in the ROMs of the Macintosh IIci, IIfx, IIsi, and LC. This results in performance degradation in an extremely small number of applications, and doesn't cause system crashes. This affects few applications and very few customers. It is not a new problem and it only applies if you're using System 6, System 7.0 corrects this bug.

During extensive testing and research, Apple investigated a variety of solutions to enhance the memory manager performance. One solution was software called the Memory Manager INIT (a software "patch"). Testing revealed that this patch did not enhance Memory Manager performance, and introduced risks, such as decreased performance, in some mainstream applications. We are aware of the distribution of an unofficial version of the Memory Manager INIT. This INIT was modified from Apple's experimental version, and should NOT be used. This INIT can cause data corruption, data loss and system crashes. Apple strongly urges that you throw away this INIT.

Because of the minimal impact, the Apple task force decided that it was not necessary to develop, test, and release a patch to the Memory Manager for System 6. It is important to realize the implications of patching the

Memory Manager. Since it is at the heart of everything the Macintosh does, any patch would require major testing resources to cover the entire product line, large numbers of applications, and Network and Communications products.

Based on developer feedback, customer feedback, and extensive in-house testing, Apple identified very few affected applications.

If you have a customer reporting slow downs on the Macintosh IIci, IIfx, IIsi, or LC, check the following items:

- 1) They aren't using built-in video. The Macintosh IIci and IIsi cycle-steal. The LC does not.
- 2) They have a clean System folder. Large numbers of INITs cause many problems.
- 3) They don't have network-based problems that also cause slow downs.
- 4) They have a properly configured SCSI bus.
- 5) They generally have a configuration that works.

If the slow performance persists after checking these items, it may be due to a Memory Manager software problem. The best solution would be to upgrade to System 7.

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