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MultiFinder: Why System Memory Fluctuates

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Security: Everyone

MultiFinder: Why System Memory Fluctuates

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TOPIC -----

Why does the amount of memory used by the System constantly change under MultiFinder or System 7? In the "About This Macintosh..." window, the System size and Largest Unused Block size fluctuate.

DISCUSSION -----

This happens because of the event-driven operating system. As various events occur, the System may need to load or unload resources through RAM to take care of them. Because events happen all the time--even when the Macintosh seems to be idle--RAM allocation varies all the time.

You see this fluctuation under System 7 or MultiFinder and not under just the Finder (pre-System 7) because of the dynamic RAM allocation. Under Finder, all RAM allocation is fixed, whereas in MultiFinder and System 7 a given application or resource can request or free up RAM.

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