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Apple HD Setup: Why 80MB Drive Formats to Only 76.8MB

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TOPIC -----

I've noticed that the new Apple 80MB internal drives only format to 76,800 Kbytes usable! Is there any reason for this? (The old drives formatted to the entire 80MB.)

DISCUSSION -----

Earlier versions of HD Setup initialized a volume to its maximum formatted capacity. Drives of similar advertised capacity have slightly varying total formatted size.

The release of the Apple Tape Backup unit lets you do a mirror-image backup of your drive. But in order to restore a mirror image backup, the volume that is being restored to must be of like or greater capacity than the volume from which the data came.

If, for instance, you had a failing hard disk that could be formatted to 78MB, did a mirror-image backup, had the drive replaced with one that could be formatted to only 76MB, you wouldn't be able to restore your work.

Apple modified HD Setup so that it formats each series of drive we sell to a like-total formatted size for that series, regardless of vendor. In the case of the nominally 80MB drive, 76MB is the lowest common denominator of all vendors that we use.

You may be able to reclaim some of the unused 4MB by using a third-party initialization application, but this is not guaranteed nor supported by Apple.

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