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HyperCard: Cause of Disappearing Heap Space (7/92)

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TOPIC ----------

If two HyperCard stacks are open simultaneously, and one of them has a resource fork, is locked and in use -- switching back and forth between the stacks (even just clicking on their windows alternately in the Finder) will gradually diminish HyperCard Heap Space.

DISCUSSION ----------

The stack in use has to be locked and have a resource fork (new stacks that have not been created with a copied background have no resource fork). It does NOT have to contain resources. (It can get into this state by opening it in ResEdit or by adding and deleting a resource.)

The other stack does not have to be locked.

The Cause

HyperCard is opening a new access path to the stack in use every time you switch stacks.

To the Macintosh operating system, every time you switch stacks it looks like you are opening another file. In System 6.0.7, there is a limit of 40 open files (actually, it's 40 open forks), so HyperCard will eventually refuse to switch stacks. In System 7.0 and later, there is no limit, so heap space will simply continue to drop until HyperCard runs out of memory.

This behavior is confirmed in HyperCard 2.1 and we know of no workaround.

This article is adapted from the Claris Tech Info database.

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