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Apple 350 MB Hard Disks: Buzz Sound Normal (4/95)

Revised: 4/7/95
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 27 March 1995
Article Reviewed/Updated: 7 April 1995

TOPIC -----

Periodically the hard disk in my Macintosh Performa 6115CD makes a buzzing sound. The hard drive is a 350 MB drive. Is this drive defective?

DISCUSSION -----

If you have a Macintosh computer with a 350, 500, or 700 MB hard drive, you may find that the drive periodically makes a buzzing sound. There is nothing wrong with the drive. The 350 MB drives have a feature that performs a small set of seeks after 10 minutes of idle spinning activity. This is done to increase the reliability of the drive by preventing heads from staying on a single track for a prolonged period. These seeks help to avoid accelerated wear; flying characteristics change due to debris buildup on the head or lubrication being affected. You may hear a brief buzz sound when this seek activity happens. It does not affect the drive's ability to respond quickly to host requests during that period.

Data integrity and system operation are NOT compromised by this activity, and there is no reason to replace the hard disk because of the buzzing sound.

The same mechanism is utilized in 500 MB and 700 MB 3.5-in. SCSI drives, so this feature is also included on these hard disks.

Article Change History:
07 Apr 1995 - Made minor technical updates.

Support Information Services

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Tech Info Library Article Number:17453