Tech Info Library

A/UX Error: Cannot Mount Drive, Dirty File System (3/95)

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TOPIC ---

I'm having problems re-installing the A/UX core. I get a message from the
installer when I select software stating, "cannot mount drive c300d0s0: dirty
file system".

Here is the procedure I followed to correct this:

1) In single user mode, I got hung trying to continue boot process.

2) Shut down with key.

3) From the startup shell, I used the fsck command on the drive with the -b16
option, which fixed a bad block count. I then ran fsck again with no -b16 option
and it all went through fine

4) I opened the computer and verified that this wasn't an improperly terminated
system, that all connectors are properly seated, and that I indeed had but one
drive.

5) I attempted again to install A/UX, and I still got the error message.

6) I checked the partition map, and found that this drive is formatted as
follows:

• Mac Partition 133 MB
• Slice 0 204 MB
• Slice 3 6xx MB

I ran the installer again, but got the same error, file system is marked as
dirty, slice 0 160030 used; 31961 free. What is wrong?

DISCUSSION --

You should check to make certain your drive isn't full (both slice 0 and slice 3), and then use the fsck (file system check) command on BOTH slices on the drive. You can only fsck the root partition from within the startup shell, in order to fsck any other slices you will need to launch A/UX and use the fsck command. If this does not work, you will need to reformat the drive and re-install A/UX.

WARNING: You need to have a back up of your hard drive before formatting. The format process will erase all data.

You may find when you run the fsck command on slice 0 again, it will report dirty even though it was not used since the previous clean up. Then run the fsck command on slice 3. On completion of fsck, if you see a message that says "FILE SYSTEM WAS MODIFIED" it is recommended that you run fsck again using the same command. You want fsck to make a complete check without any changes.

You should now be able to install A/UX.

If your hard drive has slice 0, and also has a slice 3 data partition which is dirty, the installer may believe that slice 0 is dirty too. Somehow, slice 0 gets flagged as dirty as a result. You will need to run the fsck command on both partitions. This is an anomalous behavior.

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