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Troubleshooting Hard Drives: When To Reformat (3/97)

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TOPIC -----

While troubleshooting a hard drive problem, when might it be necessary to reformat (initialize) a hard drive?

DISCUSSION -----

Reformatting a hard drive (also called "initializing") is only necessary when a disk utility, such as Disk First Aid, finds a problem that it is not able to repair. Formatting is also required when partitioning a hard drive. Formatting a hard drive is not necessary while troubleshooting a software problem.

If hard drive failure is suspected, start the computer from the Disk Tools floppy disk or Apple Macintosh CD that came with the computer, and run the Disk First Aid program. If Disk First Aid does not find any problems, or finds problems that it is able to repair, there is no need to reformat the drive.

If Disk First Aid finds problems and says that it is not able to repair them, a third party disk repair utility may be able to repair the drive. If you do not have access to these utilities, or they are not able to repair the drive, then you should back up all of the files on the hard drive and reformat it.

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