

CATALYST 2.0 - DYNAMIC DRIVERS
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Quark Engineering, Inc. introduced Catalyst 2.0 over a year ago with the ability to "dynamically load" up to six drivers. The manual is not altogether clear about how this dynamic loading worked. This article is about taking advantage of dynamic loading.

SOS.Driver on my Catalyst boot disk kept growing. I added Quark's Discourse spooler drivers, then On Three's .OnTime driver. In fact I added so many drivers that I ended up deleting .Quarkcom and the six .Unused drivers to make more room. My system functioned just fine without these deleted drivers. The problem arose when I wanted to add the .Attach screen dump driver. There was no room and nothing else I could delete.

I reread my Catalyst menu again and started asking Apple /// users questions. Dynamic loading means not all drivers must be present on SOS.Driver on your Catalyst boot disk. There was the additional advantage of saving memory by not always having to load every driver. .Grafix, for instance, uses 4.5K of memory. This was exactly what I wanted.

When Catalyst 2.0 installed itself, it created a driver file with the full pathname of .Profile/Catalyst/SOS.Driver. This driver file contains .Grafix, .Audio, .RS232, .Backup and other drivers that Quark thought the average /// user might load dynamically. You can read and work with a driver file with Systems Configuration Program (SCP) from Systems Utilities. I added .Spoolstatus and the four .FMTD formatter drivers. I deleted .Audio, .Grafix, all four .FMTDs, and .Spoolstatus from my boot disk driver file, leaving me with 19K of memory left in SCP after reading in the drivers.

To use the dynamic load feature, select Catalyst Edit from the main Catalyst Menu. Then select item 1, Edit Catalyst Menu and place the cursor at the program which will need to dynamically load drivers. For example, I removed the four .FMTD formatter drivers from my boot disk. In order to format from Systems Utilities, I placed the cursor at Systems Utilities and hit the return. In the next menu, Item 3 was Extra Drivers. Extra Drivers are drivers which will be loaded dynamically. I keyed in .FMTD1, .FMTD2, .FMTD3 and hit return; my system uses three floppy drives. I hit escape twice, selected item 5 to update. If .Quarkcom and the six .Unused drivers are in SOS.Driver on your boot disk, everything should work. The six .Unused drivers allow for up to six extra drivers to be loaded in a given program, one of these can be a disk driver. Certain drivers such as .Spool cannot be loaded dynamically.