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SOS DRIVERS SIZE

The article last month on System Configuration addressed what happens when a disk is booted by the internal drive. The SOS.KERNAL, SOS.INTERP, and SOS.DRIVER files are all loaded into a reserved area in your A///'s memory.

This area has a maximum total size. As a result, the limit for a 256K A/// on the SOS.DRIVER file is about 51K.

The following sizes of various drivers should help you in determining if you can fit all your drivers on your boot disk. For single application programs it is rarely a problem to load all the drivers, but with Catalyst one easily fills the 51K.

DRIVER	SIZE
.CONSOLE (Apple)	7K
.CONSOLE (Powerkeys)	10K
.CONSOLE (Powerkeys+CP)	12K
.RAM (Titan)	13K
.SPOOLER (DADDataSystem)	24K
.GRAFIX (Apple)	5K
.PRINTER (Apple-Serial)	2K
.PRINTER (Apple-Parallel)	2K
.PRINTER (Grappler-Par)	4K
.RS232 (Apple)	3K
.FMTDX (Apple-format)	1K
.CATALYST(Quark)	10K
.QUARKCOM plus UNUSED1 thru UNUSED6	1K
.PROFILE (Apple)	3K
.ONTIME (OnThree)	2K

This list is by no means complete, but should give you an idea of how big you can build your SOS.DRIVER file before you run into problems. If you have the size of other drivers, please forward them and we will be publish a longer list at a later date. Also these sizes are approximate as a driver that I show as 2K may really occupy 3 blocks or 1.5K. NOTE: I was not able to detect any inability to load the large drivers "across" the 32K boundary discussed last month. This may have been because of the specific drivers I was using or the version of System Utilities (x1.2f) and the System Configuration (x1.2c) that I was using.

Of course with Catalyst you can use the UNUSED drivers to dynamically load those drivers you need for a specific program. The .GRAFIX driver is only needed for those programs that display graphics or the RS232 driver should only be loaded for your communications program. The dynamically loading of drivers can also be used as a safety device. For example, BPI Accounting will format your hard disk by mistaking it for a floppy disk drive. By dynamically loading the .FMTDX driver for those programs that need it, System Utilities or your Word Processor, and not loading it with your accounting package you cannot accidentally reformat your harddisk. However, the really large drivers always seem to be those that cannot be dynamically loaded. I believe that those drivers that cannot be dynamically loaded include .CONSOLE, .CATALYST, .RAM, and .SPOOLER. The .PROFILE driver obviously could not be dynamically loaded by the Catalyst boot disk, since the dynamic driver file is located on the hard disk in the Catalyst subdirectory.

