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A/UX 3.0: Installing on Magneto Optical Drive (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

I'm having difficulty with A/UX 3.0 and the Liberty 128 Magneto Optical.

To summarize several calls to Liberty Systems and FWB (FWB makes the Hard Disk Toolkit formatter that ships with the drive), the problem is with A/UX 3.0. According to them, 3.0 won't install on any third-party software partitioned hard drive, even if the partitions follow Apple's specifications. I must use the special version of HDSC Setup that comes with A/UX 3.0. Unfortunately, HDSC Setup won't format Magneto Optical. FWB says there's nothing they can do; it's Apple's problem. And they say that no Magneto Optical works with A/UX 3.0.

DISCUSSION -----

We called A/UX engineering to see which drives were tested with the Installer. There's an entry in the /etc/disktab file for a Sony E501 and it's referenced as SMOE501.

When a drive is partitioned with software other than HDSC Setup included with A/UX, the Installer assumes that the A/UX partitions are ready to have the software loaded into them. This means that the partition must exist in the partition map, be of the correct type, have a BZB (block Zero Block), and have a file system on it.

Most of the third-party disk partitioning tools create everything correctly, with the exception of the file system. The cause of the problem you describe could be the absence of a file system.

If you have this problem, here are two workarounds:

- Use HDSC SetUp that came with A/UX to create the partition.
 - 1) If you don't choose Easy Install in the Installer, you use Customize.
 - 2) Customize has 3 steps. The first one is "Prepare the Disk." Select this step to call HDSC SetUp.
 - 3) Choose "Partition" and then "Customize."
 - 4) Once in the Customize screen, remove the A/UX partitions (Root, Autorecovery, Ustr, and so on), and recreate them. This creates the entries in the partition map, but also creates a file system on them.
 - 5) Exit HDSC and continue with the installation.

Note: If you run this HDSC while in the Macintosh operating system, the partitions will be created properly, but without a file system on them. So avoid running it under the Macintosh operating system unless you're prepared to create the file systems manually.

- Create the file system manually.

To create the file systems manually, you need to run the UNIX command "newfs" at a shell prompt. To get to a shell prompt you need to run the Installer in "debug" mode and quit from it.

- 1) Boot the system you'll be installing on with the appropriate installation disk.
- 2) When you get the first "A/UX Installer" screen, press Command-. (the Command key and period) to interrupt the boot process.
- 3) You should get a text window with a prompt "installer#." At this prompt enter the command:

```
boot_cd debug
```

This will start the installer in debug mode.

- 4) Once the Installer has loaded, press the "Quit" button and you'll be at a UNIX "#" prompt. At this point you need to type the command:

```
newfs /dev/dsk/c5d0s0 other
```

For this example, 5 is the SCSI ID of the drive. Replace the number 5 in the previous command with the appropriate number.

- 5) After this command is completed and you get your prompt back, enter

```
installer
```

and go into Custom installation. You should be able to perform steps 2 or 3.

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