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Power Macintosh: About This Macintosh and Virtual Memory 8/94

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TOPIC -----

When virtual memory is enabled, the "About this Macintosh" memory is more than expected. For example, using a Power Macintosh 6100/60, virtual memory set to 16MB, but his "About" info window says he has 17,228.

Even taking into account the 1024k memory value instead of 1000, the memory allocation does not add up. What is taking up the additional memory?

DISCUSSION -----

The total memory value in "About this Macintosh" is obtained from the "lram" (logical RAM) Gestalt selector. This number is calculated slightly different on the Power Macintosh due to memory used by the NanoKernel (68K emulator). An adjustment to the number is performed to yield the best possible estimate of the remaining RAM as shown in the value for the largest unused block.

The discrepancy in values returned from different machines are usually caused by various color depth settings for on-board video. The expected discrepancy for the NanoKernel should be around 870K.

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