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Multiple Drives: Long Periods of Disk Activity During Startup

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TOPIC -----

I have a Macintosh running System 7, and four disk drives attached. The disks are accessed at startup for long periods of time. Is something writing to all the drives, like a virus? I can't restart or shut down while the disk activity is going on.

DISCUSSION -----

When starting up the Macintosh with four disk drives under System 7, disk access is constant and moves from drive to drive during the first few minutes after seeing the desktop. If you choose Shut Down or Restart from the Special menu, nothing happens until the disk activity stops.

The Macintosh is configured with File Sharing ON. At startup, File Sharing reactivates, and this may take some time depending on the number of drives. While File Sharing is starting up, you can select Restart and Shut Down but they won't take effect until File Sharing is ON.

You can monitor the state of File Sharing via the Sharing Setup control panel (it will say either OFF, starting up, or ON). Restart and Shut Down commands can't complete while File Sharing is starting up. The Finder doesn't notify the user of this and will perform the shutdown or restart after File Sharing is ON.

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