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Macintosh: Shimmering Dialog Box at Start Up (8/95)

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TOPIC -----

The Macintosh on restart freezes after Welcome To Macintosh disappears with either a bomb box and a system error OR an empty bomb box that "shimmers" on the screen. It also happens with extensions off. The menu bar is empty at the top of the screen. The Macintosh will boot using a System 7.1 Disk Tools disk, and the problem doesn't occur.

DISCUSSION -----

This is not a problem with corrupt desktop files. This is usually a problem with a corrupt Finder Preferences file. The difference is the computer WILL boot with a System 7.1 Disk Tools disk. The solution to the problem is to boot with Disk Tools and trash the Finder Preferences file. On restart, the system will create a default Preferences file. If this doesn't solve the problem, then proceed with a clean install, because the Finder may be corrupt.

Also throwing At Ease in the trash while it's turned on will generate the same symptoms. At Ease modifies the boot blocks so the Macintosh will startup into At Ease. To set the boot blocks back, the At Ease control panel must be reinstalled, turned off, then removed. The manual gives complete instructions on how to properly remove At Ease.

A quick way to recover from improperly removing At Ease is to reset the boot blocks so that the Finder is the start up application. To do this follow these steps:

Step 1

Startup the computer from a floppy disk, such as the Disk Tools or the Utilities disk (for Performa Users).

Step 2

Drag the Finder outside of the System Folder.

Step 3

Drag the Finder back into the System Folder. (This blesses the System folder and

resets the boot blocks to look for the Finder, not At Ease when the computer starts up).

You can now start up your computer normally.

Article Change History:

09 Aug 1995 - Added keyword and reviewed for accuracy.

23 Feb 1994 - Added steps to reset boot blocks.

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