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System 7: Use of Virtual and Physical Memory

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Article Change History

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- For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

When using System 7, why can systems that are not 32-bit compatible access 13MB of virtual memory, but only 8MB of physical memory?

DISCUSSION -----

The memory map in a 24-bit system only allows for 8MB of RAM, 6MB NuBus, and 2MB ROM and I/O. Virtual memory will use the allocated memory of a NuBus card that is not in use. If you were to put more physical RAM in a Macintosh II running in 24-bit mode, the system would use only 8MB, and the rest would be ignored.

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