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Apple HD SC Setup 2.0.1: Partition Size

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TOPIC -----

I just used the new Apple HD SC Setup 2.0.1, part of System Software 6.0.5, to reformat the internal HD80 SC drives on my Macintosh IIfx and my Macintosh II. I was surprised to find that this reduced the disk capacity by roughly 1MB. I did a backup using DiskFit before reformatting. After reformatting, there wasn't enough room to restore. After deleting some non-essential files to make everything fit, I have "74,753K in disk and 1,539K available". Where did the space go?

DISCUSSION -----

If a Quantum PRO drive was originally initialized with Apple HD SC Setup 2.0, the HFS partition would be larger than if it was initialized with Apple HD SC Setup 2.0.1. The reason is that the PRO drives were not directly supported by Apple HD SC Setup 2.0 (the drive did not exist yet!). However, because it was an Apple drive, the Apple HD SC Setup 2.0 software supported the drive with generic, Apple-drive settings. The size of the HFS partition was rounded down to the closest 20MB. Therefore, under Apple HD SC Setup 2.0, the HFS partition was 160,000 blocks (even).

Apple HD SC Setup 2.0.1 included changes that added direct support for PRO drives and the Macintosh IIfx. (See the "System 6.0.5 Final Change History" for details.) The default HFS partition size for each drive is in an internal lookup table. The number of blocks allocated on a standard, known 80MB drive is 156,270 blocks. This size has been dictated by the original Quantum Q280 5.25-inch drive that had only 156370 blocks. To make ALL 80MB drives look alike (at least on the surface), we standardize on one 80MB partition size.

Therefore, if you had a PRO 80s drive, and you initialized it with Apple HD SC Setup 2.0 software and then went to Apple HD SC Setup 2.0.1 software, you would have lost 3730 blocks of storage or about 1.5MB. A workaround would be to use the CUSTOM partition screen, remove the original HFS partition, and create a new one manually, which is 80,000K.

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