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Macintosh SE Hard Drive Systems: HD SC Setup Version 1.3

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TOPIC -----

A problem was discovered when HD SC Setup Version 1.3 was used to initialize a hard disk inside certain Macintosh SE computers. This recalibration problem may have, in rare cases, caused a loss of data. The article below provides more information.

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh SE production units which MAY experience this problem have serial numbers beginning with:

F721,
F722, or
F723

The fix for this is to use Version 1.4 or higher of HD SC Setup.

Production units with serial numbers F724 and up didn't have this problem and could be initialized with either version 1.3 or 1.4 of HD SC Setup.

HD SC Set Up 1.4 was shipped with production units starting in early July of 1987.

Customers should upgrade to HD SC Set Up 1.4 or higher (and discard version 1.3) to ensure compatibility with all hardware configurations. Any Macintosh SE that has been initialized with version 1.3 should be updated using version 1.4 to avoid loss of data in the future. If a Macintosh SE hard disk system is serviced, the hard disk must either be updated or re-initialized with HD SC Setup 1.4.

Version 1.1 may continue to be used -- with Rodime drives only -- but due to its lack of versatility, its use is not encouraged.

BACKGROUND

The Macintosh SE originally contained:

- SCSI hard drives made by Rodime
- HD SC Setup version 1.1.

When MiniScribe became a second source of drives, HD SC Setup version 1.3 was required, because version 1.1 would not recognize or initialize MiniScribe drives.

Version 1.3 was designed to be used with both Rodime and MiniScribe drives. Unfortunately, version 1.3 exposed a bug in the Rodime drive controller. Version 1.3 turned on Rodime's head recalibration feature, which activated every 20 minutes and took 5 seconds. If the Macintosh SE user attempted to save data onto the hard disk during that time, the drive controller chip interrupted the recalibration. However, the recalibration wasn't terminated properly, and scrambled data was written to the sector over which the drive head resided. The user would notice a problem at some later date, when attempting to access the file containing the scrambled sector.

HD SC Setup version 1.4 or higher works properly on both Rodime and MiniScribe drives.

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