



MAC FACTS

from

Mac Help Desk

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(972) 783-9787 • (972) 783-7550 - Fax/Modem • (214) 249-9543 - Pager

e-mail address - machelpdesk@home.com

Web site - <http://www.machelpdesk.com>

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Volume 10, Number 8

August 2001

A Message from Dru

It's been an interesting August. Hot, humid, and slow of business. I chalk that up to the general economic slowdown and the thick, hot air in Dallas in the summer. I know just the thing that might help...a sale! How 'bout this?

HOT SUMMER SPECIAL

Call before 8/31/01 and get the following:

- Visual inspection of computer and peripherals
- Clean (air blown) internal computer components
- Check floppy drive (if applicable)
- Check hard drive
- Check CD-ROM drive (if applicable)
- Check DVD drive (if applicable)
- Diagnose software with Norton Disk Doctor
- Diagnose hardware with Tech Tool Pro
- Diagnose directories with Disk Warrior
- Defragment Hard drive (Optimization extra)
- Check peripherals connection and configuration
- Check all software
- Upgrade software as necessary (System upgrade extra)
- Give you a verbal report

All this for only \$99.95!

Call today and make an appointment!

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It's "Too Damn Hot"...but these folks called us out last month anyway: Pete Holtzberger, Poonja Design, Rene Farren, Embroidery Express, Bryan McClain, Roger Bee, Tim Thompson, TradeUSA, and Jerry Storer. Boy howdy, you gotta love the heat!

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I usually don't put this type of article in the front section, but I thought y'all might be as interested in it as I was -Ed.

Massive Mac Vs. PC Shootout Updated

Charles Gaba of aapltalk.com, also known as BlueDjinn in the TMO forums, has updated his somewhat controversial and massive Mac Vs. PC shootout. Dubbed the "AAPLTalk Price/Performance System Shootouts," this is an extremely comprehensive comparison between various Mac models and competing PC models from major manufacturers. Though many aspects of the rating system are somewhat subjective, the new shootouts include the ability for you to enter information about your system (or any system you wish to compare) and get a rating based on your criteria.

Go here to see for yourself - <http://www.aapltalk.com/shootouts/index.html>

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Managing Application Memory - Mac Basics Tutorial

By Charles W. Moore

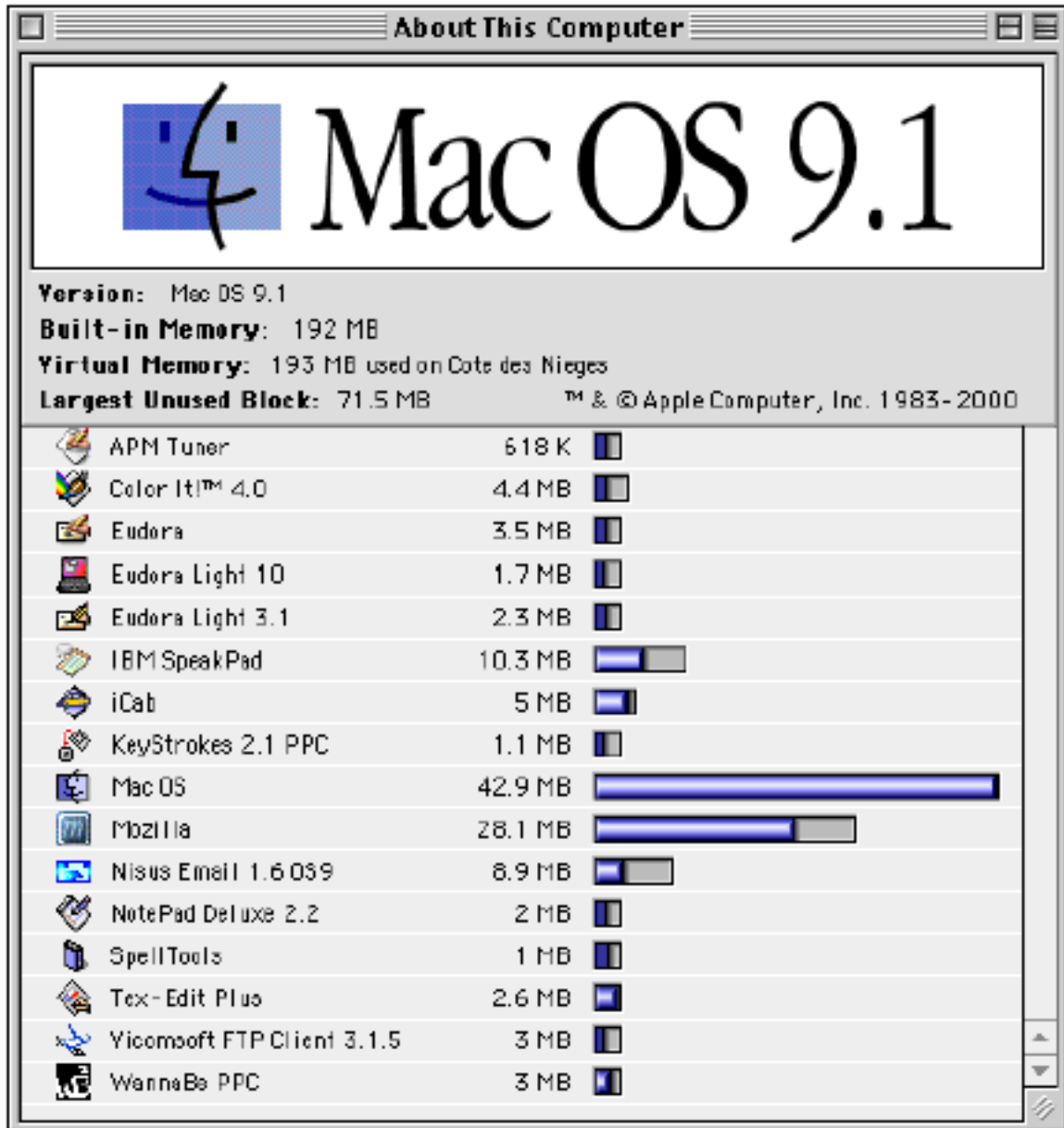
"Memory" is a term that tends to confuse new and non-tech oriented computer users. I don't know how many times I've suggested that flaky behavior by such a person's computer might be attributable to a shortage of memory, only to have them somewhat quizzically inform me that there is still plenty of empty space on their hard drive.

Well, yes, hard drive storage space is a sort of memory, and perhaps a kind that non-techies find easier to cognate than the more abstract concept of dynamic memory. There is also ROM, or Read Only Memory, stored in a chip on the computer's motherboard. However, when tech literate people refer to computer "memory," they are talking about RAM, or Random Access Memory, a computer's capacity of which is determined by the number and capacity of its RAM modules, whose silicon chips can store information dynamically so long as they remain powered up. RAM memory disappears when the computer is shut down.

Your computer and software applications is essentially operate on RAM. When you start the computer, it loads information stored magnetically in the operating system files on your hard drive into RAM, these days using up a large chunk of it, usually 30 MB or more. Then when you start up applications, their information is also loaded into RAM, using up more of your reserves. The number of programs you can have open at one time is limited by the amount of RAM capacity that has been installed on your computer (actually, there are ways of temporarily tapping unused storage space on your hard drive to artificially increase RAM capacity, but I'll not get into that in this tutorial).

You can get a snapshot of how much memory the System and each program you have open are using by selecting "About This Computer" From the Apple Menu when the Mac OS Finder is your active (frontmost) application. In the window that opens, you will see a bar graph, with a bar for the System and each open application. The respective length of each bar indicates the amount of RAM

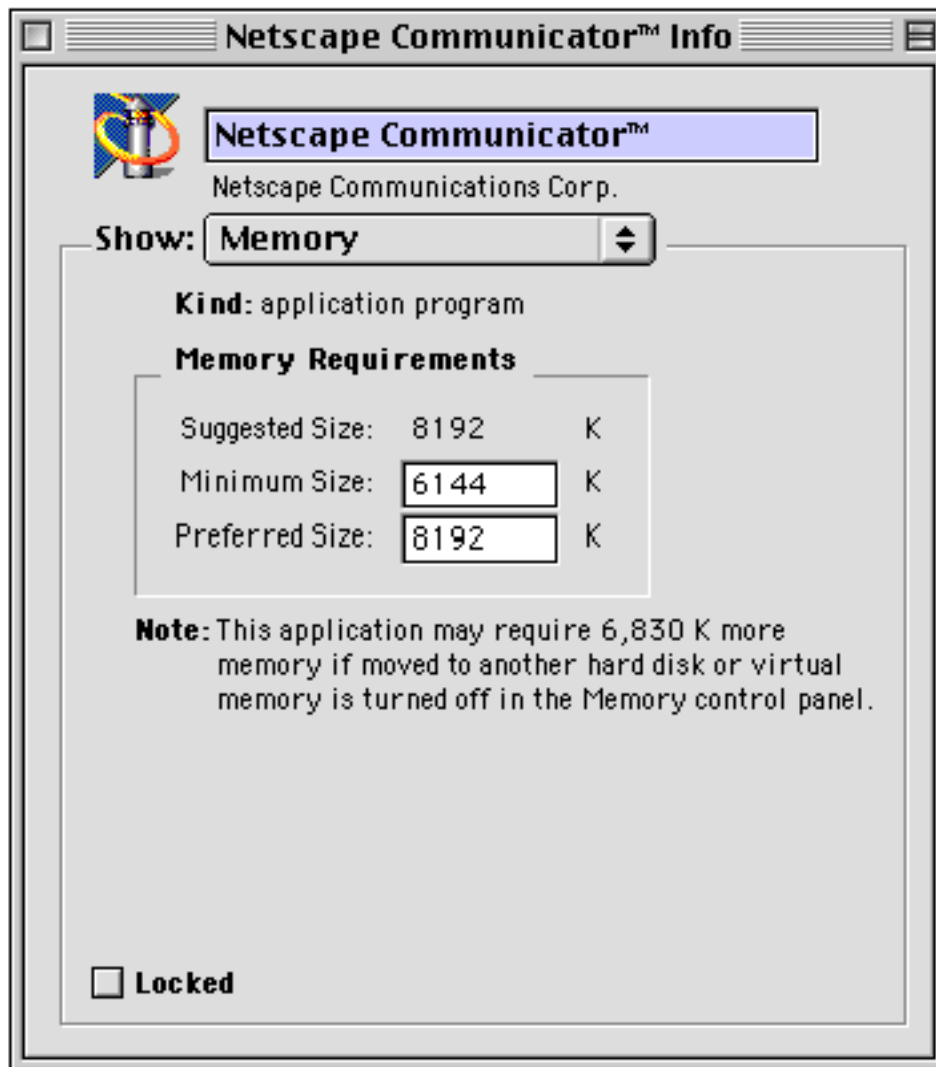
that has been assigned to that application, and the shaded in portion of the bar tells you how much of that allocation the program is actually using at the time. Note, however, that some programs use little of their allocation when no documents or files are open, so check a program's memory usage when it is displaying a typical document.



If you notice that one or more of the bars pertaining to applications (not the System) are almost fully shaded in, that means that the program is testing the limits of its assigned memory allocation, and it probably needs to be assigned more memory to work with. On the other hand, if an application is using only two-thirds or less of its memory allotment, you can probably reduce its memory allocation if you find yourself running short of RAM capacity to run the number of programs you want.

In order to adjust the program's memory allocation, first quit the program, and find the application file's icon, which will usually be located inside a folder with the name of the application along with a number of other files. An alias of the program icon will not work.

Single click on the icon to highlight it, and then select "Get info" from the File menu or just use the Command + I keyboard shortcut. An information box will open, and in it you will see a pull-down submenu beside the word "Show:". Use the menu to select "Memory," and a dialog will appear under the heading "Memory Requirements," in which there will be three entries: "Suggested size;" "Minimum size;" and "Preferred size."



Suggested size is what the developer recommends for general, all round use, while Minimum size is the smallest allocation you can set without degrading program performance (and it may be a bit cranky even at that setting). Preferred size is the actual amount of memory assigned to the program, and you can change it by dragging over the number to highlight it, hitting Delete, and then typing in a new number. Note that the application cannot be running when you are changing memory settings, although you can check Get Info without shutting down the program. You also cannot adjust memory when your Mac is running under the Simple Finder mode.

computers. Widely adopted by digital peripheral companies such as Sony, Canon, JVC and Kodak, FireWire has become the established industry standard for both consumers and professionals.

“Apple enabled the desktop video revolution with its invention of FireWire,” said Jon Rubinstein, Apple’s senior vice president of Hardware Engineering. “Today, Apple builds FireWire into every computer it sells, and it is a key component of Apple’s ‘digital hub’ strategy.”

FireWire combined with Apple’s award-winning Final Cut Pro® and iMovie(TM) video editing software has catapulted Apple to become the world’s largest supplier of video editing solutions for both the professional and consumer markets. In addition, Apple’s PowerBook® G4 Titanium notebook, with its built-in FireWire, together with low-cost, high-quality DV camcorders, has sparked a mobile DV-editing phenomenon that has revolutionized video editing within the television and film industry.

Transferring data at up to 400Mbps, FireWire delivers more than 30 times the bandwidth of the popular USB peripheral standard. With its high data-transfer speed and “hot plug-and-play” capability, FireWire is the interface of choice for today’s digital audio and video devices, as well as external hard drives and other high-speed peripherals.



Thanks for taking the time to read the 136th edition of our newsletter. Feel free to ‘pass it along’. Any comments would be greatly appreciated