
ComputerFAQs Monthly

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions in the world of computers

Volume 1, Number 7, Issue #7

May, 1995

Q: I recently deleted a file by accident which is very important. Is there any way I can get it back?

A: You can try running the DOS command *undelete*. Change to the directory where the file was located and type **UNDELETE**. This may allow you to retrieve your file, unless it has been overwritten by another one. If DOS can reconstruct your file, you will be asked to provide the first letter of the filename. If DOS cannot reconstruct your file, 3rd party software such as *The Norton Utilities* may be able to extract part of it.

Q: My company recently installed OS/2 Warp on some of our machines, yet we have found a few multimedia applications that don't run well under OS/2. What do you suggest?

A: OS/2 has a feature called *Dual Boot*. If you have installed *Warp* over your old DOS and *Windows* setup, you can select dual boot from your OS/2 system. Then, once you're in DOS and you want to return to OS/2, simply change to the C:\OS2 directory and type **BOOT /OS2**. Consult your OS/2 *Warp* manual for more details on dual boot and the boot manager.

Q: Recently, my system has been running real slow. What do you recommend I do to speed it back up.

A: Since you say that this is a recent occurrence, something has changed on your system to merit the loss of performance. First, we recommend you scan your system for a virus. Second try defragmenting your hard drive. After months of usage, the data on your hard drive can become disorganized. A utility such as DOS **DEFRAG** can sort it all out again. If neither of these improves your system performance, you may want to try reformatting your hard drive and reinstalling all of your applications, especially

if you use *Windows* a lot. *Windows* does not clean up after itself too well, and things that you may have deleted a long time ago (applications, fonts, icons, etc.) may still be lingering in your INI files.

Q: I'm trying to run a particular DOS-based game (OK, I admit it, it's *Doom 2*), and it's telling me I don't have enough memory available. I have 16 MB of RAM in my machine, and it runs fine on my machine at work which only has 8 MB! What gives?

A: You're probably running low on *conventional* memory. DOS can only use the first 640k of memory to run programs. If you type **MEM** from the DOS prompt, you'll see how much conventional memory you have available. This number should ideally be over 590k to run most high-end DOS-based software and games. What can you do to increase conventional memory? DOS provides a program called **MEMMAKER** which attempts to safely remove as many of your system's device drivers as it can from conventional memory, making more memory available for your programs. MemMaker is pretty self explanatory. If, however, it doesn't do much for you (in some cases it may make things worse, so back up your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files *before* running it), you can try creating a boot disk to run your application. See your DOS manual for instructions on creating a boot disk.

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Amicron Technology Services
PO Box 1453, Buffalo NY 14225-1453
716-369-6235, 716-668-5788 (voice)
716-656-2054 (fax/bbs)

800-283-2255 #20996 (alpha-pager)
1-12172@wwivnet.org (email)