

OS-9 Level II Format Problem

There has been reports that there is a problem between OS-9 Level II, the COCO 3 and controllers that use the WD1773 FDC (floppy disk controller). The symptom is, bootdisks that have new or altered drivers or descriptors in the bootlist may have trouble booting up or formatting disks. The problem seems most apparent when the clock driver to the DISTO RTime adapter is added to the bootfile. This does not mean that there is a problem with the clock driver. The problem seems to be between the MMU during bank switching and the FDC. It only happens to some COCO 3 and controller combinations. If this happens to your system, don't despair, there is a solution to this problem.

When a new bootdisk is made, a boot file is used. This is a text file that contains the names of all the drivers and descriptors that make up your specific bootdisk. Changing the order in which these drivers and descriptors appear in this list will cure the boot/format problem. It seems that the RBF and CC3Disk.dr drivers must reside in the same 8K block. The new and longer Clock driver needed for the RTime adapter splits these two drivers. This is true for many other drivers as well, including some of Tandy's drivers. Depending on what drivers you have, usually, moving Init from its present position to the bottom of the list, works. Remember though, the OS9P2 driver must always be the first on the list. You can change the order by using EDIT or retyping the whole file using BUILD. See your OS-9 manual for more details. Use OS9GEN to make a new bootdisk, and see if that fixes the problem. If not, repeat the process using one or two different drivers, as far as we know, this procedure will always work.