MRBackup_Tips

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Chapter 1

MRBackup_Tips

1.1 MRBackup Tips

This section contains bits of information which will help you achieve maximum satisfaction and performance from MRBackup Professional. If you have a useful tip, please submit it and we'll incorporate it here.

@{ " Improving Throughput " Link throughput }

@{ " AmigaDOS Formatting " link formatting }

1.2 Improving Throughput

One important factor in the performance of the AmigaDOS filesystems is the number of disk buffers allocated to each drive. For hard disk drives, this value can be set when you partition the drive. The value can also be modified for any drive with the AmigaDOS 'AddBuffers' command. There is no set value that works well for all drives, but I recommend that you use a value of at least 30 buffers. Bear in mind that using too many buffers can waste memory and perhaps even slow down filesystem performance.

The number of buffers assigned to a floppy disk drive has no effect on Fast Disk performance but will have an impact on AmigaDOS backups to floppy disks.

The 'Buffer' parameter in the General Parameters (main) window now has a minimal effect on overall performance since most buffers used by MRBackup are actually tuned to the best match between input and output devices.

If you are backing up to SCSI tape, the buffer size that you specify in the mountlist entry is very important. Most tape hardware has internal buffer memory. Data is held in this buffer until it fills, then is written to tape. If you specify a mountlist entry buffer size exactly matched to the capacity of the tape drive's internal buffer, you will achieve maximum parallel execution of the tape handler and MRBackup and thus maximum throughput. This can also be a case where

more isn't necessarily better.

1.3 AmigaDOS Formatting

When performing AmigaDOS backups to floppy disk, you can control the formatting of individual diskettes via the 'Formatting' and 'Filesystem' settings in the General Parameters window. When 'Formatting' is set to 'Normal', MRBackup executes a script named MRBackup:FormatDisk. This script is designed to run automatically without user assistance or intervention. However, due to the design of the AmigaDOS Format program, if a disk error is encountered, the script may not be able to complete. If you experience this problem, you may want to edit the FormatDisk script to make it more interactive. Find the line that reads:

```
SYS:System/Format <nil: Drive {Device} Name {Label} {NOICONS} {QUICK} {FFS}
```

and remove the '<nil:' input specification. This will cause the script to pause until you press the RETURN key. If you're running MRBackup on a custom (non-WorkBench) screen, you will have to bring the WorkBench screen to the front and locate the FormatDisk window in order to do this.

I recommend that you preformat all new (out of the box) diskettes, then use the 'Quick' setting in the 'Formatting' option. If you're running AmigaDOS 2.04 or beyond, the FormatDisk script will not be used. Instead, MRBackup can call an internal AmigaDOS support routine to perform the formatting.