# TransSkel
# Programmer's Notes

### 6: TransSkel and Low Memory Globals

Who to blame:          Paul DuBois, dubois@primate.wisc.edu
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This Note describes the TransSkel policy on using low-memory global variables.

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Use of low memory global variables was at one time common practice i Macintosh programming. Now Apple cautions against use of such variables. Programmer's Guide to MultiFinder states (p. 2-11) that "in the future, low memory will disappear." Inside Macintosh VI (p. 3-7) contains similar statements. This means that use of low memory globals will fail someday. (It already fails under A/UX, I believe.)

Consequently, TransSkel makes no use of low memory globals. Below are some cases where low memory globals could be used, but aren't:

- **Menu bar height.** If a machine has a 64K ROM, the menu bar height is assumed to be 20, otherwise it's obtained from the Script Manager routine `GetMBarHeight()`. The low memory global `MBarHeight` is not used. It doesn't exist on 64K ROM machines, anyway (TN OV 04).

- **Desktop region bounding box.** IM V-205 indicates that `GetGrayRgn()` is available on Macintosh Plus machines and up, which is taken to mean it's applicable to 128K ROMs and up. That leaves 64K ROM machines, for which `screenBits.bounds` is used (decreased by the height of the menu bar). The low memory global `GrayRgn` is not used.

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**References:**

*Programmer's Guide to MultiFinder.*

*Inside Macintosh*, Volume V. Window Manager chapter
Macintosh Technical Note OV 04: Compatibility: Why and How