AutoMac™ III and MacroEditor Release Notes, Version 2.1

AutoMac™ III has been tested in many environments. If you should experience a problem or find that AutoMac is not operating as you think it ought to, it is possible that another piece of software or hardware you are using is interfering with it. This document describes the few minor problems known thus far and some tips for what to do when you run up against something we don't know about.

MultiFinder

AutoMac™ III has been developed to be compatible with MultiFinder, as well as older versions of the Macintosh System software. We have found no significant problems with MultiFinder in our test environments. However this does not mean that problems do not exist or will not be found in the future, particularly if Apple makes fundamental changes in MultiFinder, the ROMs, etc., as it has done in the past.

Occasionally in MultiFinder a brief but noticeable pause will occur during playback of a macro. Additionally, macros recorded with the AutoMac options "Record Full Mouse Track" or "Record All Mouse Motion" activated may operate in a jerky or halting fashion at times. This is due to multitasking, or the sharing of time between various programs. (Technically, MultiFinder does not always call the normal event manager traps often enough.) This minor problem will becorrected in a future version by special case programming.

INIT Programs

AutoMac™ III is an "INIT 31" type program, which means it is installed automatically at startup time if it resides in the System Folder. There are many other INIT type programs available, and AutoMac is compatible with the vast majority of them. However if you experience a problem with AutoMac it may be due to another INIT you are using.

If you use other INITs besides AutoMac and experience a problem, try removing one INIT at a time from the System Folder and restarting the computer each time. You may find that one of your INITs is interfering with AutoMac. Another thing to try is to rename AutoMac III to "zAutoMac III", so it will be installed later than other INIT programs. (INITs are installed in alphabetical order.)

Memory Considerations

Some newer programs require very large amounts of memory, perhaps all that you have in your Macintosh. AutoMac will normally tell you if it is about to run out of memory. You will see an alert saying, "Out of memory in program or system area". However if you try to view an AutoMac dialog and there is no response, this could mean that you are running low on memory. Of course, one solution is to purchase a memory upgrade for your Macintosh. If you use MultiFinder, AutoMac is forced to use memory from the system memory area only. Therefore it may be possible to run low on memory even if your Macintosh has a lot of it.

At startup time, AutoMac reserves some memory for its own use. A different type of low memory problem occurs when AutoMac's private memory area becomes full. If this happens you will see an alert saying "You need to allocate more memory to AutoMac." To increase the amount of memory AutoMac uses, use the Prefs dialog. Increase the "minimum" memory setting to be larger than the "current" setting, and make the change permanent. The next time you start the computer, the change will take effect.

Menu Selection

AutoMac records menu selections "by name" if possible. If you later edit the macro you will see a Menu command with the name of the menu and the item you chose. However, some programs have special custom menus, and recording by name isn't possible. In this case, AutoMac records a simple mouse drag (a Down command followed by an Up command). This will normally operate any menu well. For unusual cases such as the new "heirarchical" menus, you may need to experiment with AutoMac's recording options, or else construct a special menu selection using the MacroEditor.

Other Applications

If you find that a particular program does not work with AutoMac, you may be forced to temporarily make a choice between the two. In the unlikely event that this happens, you can probably just not use AutoMac and you won't even notice that it's there. However, there's a slight chance that AutoMac will interfere with the normal operation of a program such that you can't use either one. If this happens, you should drag the AutoMac™ III file out of your System folder and restart your Macintosh. You can then use the program

that interferes with AutoMac. When you're done, drag the AutoMac™ III file back into your System folder and restart your Macintosh.

In Conclusion

Whenever you combine software and hardware from different sources there is a chance that compatibility problems may arise. AutoMac has been designed to prevent as many of these as possible, but we can't foresee every possible problem. If you find a compatibility problem or bug not listed in this file, please write and tell us. Our goal is to maintain only the highest standards of compatibility and reliablity for AutoMac™ III. Our address is:

> Genesis Micro Software
> P.O. Box 6236
> Bellevue, WA
> 98008

You can also report bugs or compatibility problems to Microsoft Product Support at the phone number mentioned in your Microsoft product manual.