

Apple II Technical Notes



Developer Technical Support

ProDOS 8

#8: Dealing with /RAM

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November 1988

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October 1984

This Technical Note formerly described conventions for dealing with the built-in ProDOS 8 RAM disk, /RAM.

Section 5.2.2 of the *ProDOS 8 Technical Reference Manual* now documents the conventions on how to handle /RAM, including how to disconnect it, how to reconnect it, and precautions you should follow if doing either, which were covered in this Note. The manual also includes sample source code.

Executing the sample code which comes with the manual to disconnect /RAM has the undesired effect of decreasing the maximum number of volumes on-line when used with versions of ProDOS 8 prior to 1.2. This side effect is because earlier versions of ProDOS 8 do not have the capability to remove the volume control block (VCB) entry which is allocated for /RAM when it is installed.

In later versions of ProDOS 8 (1.2 and later), this problem no longer exists, and you should issue an `ON_LINE` call to a device after disconnecting it. This call returns error \$28 (no device connected), but it also erases the VCB entry for the disconnected device.

Further Reference

- *ProDOS 8 Technical Reference Manual*
- *ProDOS 8 Update Manual*