

**#196: CDEF Parameters**

See also:           The Control Manager

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This technical note warns writers of control definition functions (CDEFs) of the value of the longword `param` parameter when the message is `drawCntrl` (0) or `autoTrack` (8). The CDEF should only consider the low word of the `param` parameter when dealing with these messages.

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The Control Manager chapter of *Inside Macintosh Volume I* describes how to write a control definition function (CDEF). The parameters to the CDEF are described for the various messages which are sent in the `message` parameter, including the `param` parameter which is defined as a long word (32-bit) value.

For two messages, `drawCntrl` and `autoTrack`, it is possible for the high word of the `param` parameter to contain undefined data which could result in the failure of routines that rely upon all 32 bits of `param` being defined. These routines should not make that assumption and should only consider the low word of the `param` parameter when dealing with the `drawCntrl` and `autoTrack` messages.