Memory Limits for Various CDTV Configurations

by Adam Levin-Delson

RAM space is at a premium in the CDTV, so for the developer who is creating CDTV titles, it is important to know what the limits of system memory are. This is especially true for developers who want their titles to work on a variety of CDTV/A500 configurations. To help assist developers in making titles work on the maximum number of configurations, the following chart shows a variety of hardware configurations capable of playing CDTV discs.

For comparison purposes, all machines were allowed to boot far enough to open the Workbench screen (in the default size) and a CLI/Shell window. This represents a reasonable starting point for developers to estimate if their application will fit into a CDTV's memory (To properly ascertain the amount of free memory in a particular CDTV/A500(+) at run time, use the Exec library's AvailMem() function). These results are not guaranteed for any particular configuration, they can and will change depending upon many variables, including additional hardware, overscan or interlaced screens, etc. Use this information only as a guideline. Do not assume that these result will remain constant in future releases of the OS.

WARNING: *A title that consumes too much memory on a current configuration may not work in the future if a new release of the OS consumes even a little more memory.*

Important note about Workbench V1.3 and V 2.0. Under 1.3, the Workbench screen and initial CLI always open upon booting with an AmigaDOS disc. Under 2.0, the system only opens the Workbench screen when necessary, and only opens an initial CLI if the *Startup-sequence* attempts to output text. The *C:Avail* program first calculates the amount of free RAM and then prints out the results. Under 2.0, this means the amount of memory printed by *Avail* would differ from the amount of memory actually free by the amount needed to create the Workbench screen and initial CLI.

Machine	NTSC/PAL	1.3/2.0	Peripherals	*	Available	In-Use	Maximum	Largest
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	internal HD floppy	c	799448	240704	1040152	797312
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	floppy	c	886688	153464	1040152	710472
CDTV	NTSC	2.0	floppy	c	840616	206936	1047552	689200
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	SCSI card	c	881248	158904	1040152	704904
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	floppy	c	878824	161328	1040152	878624
CDTV	PAL	2.0	floppy	c	807528	239992	1047520	792880
CDTV	PAL	2.0	none	c	828784	218768	1047552	824736
CDTV	PAL	1.3	floppy	c	877936	162216	1040152	710552
CDTV	PAL	1.3	internal HD floppy	c	790488	249664	1040152	788352
A500/570	NTSC	1.3	internal FD	c	466256	56976	523232	466208
				f	412728	104160	516888	412552
				t	878984	161136	1040120	466208
A500/570	PAL	1.3	internal FD	c	457296	65936	523232	457248
				f	412704	104184	516888	412064
				t	870000	170120	1040120	457248
A500+/570	PAL	2.0	internal FD	c	809744	237776	1047520	795144
A500+	PAL	2.0	internal FD	c	839688	207864	1047552	838648
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	floppy	c	886688	153464	1040152	710472
CDTV	NTSC	2.0	floppy	c	840616	206936	1047552	689200
CDTV	NTSC	1.3	SCSI card	c	881248	158904	1040152	704904
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			floppy	f	412728	104160	516888	412552
				t	878984	161136	1040120	466208
A500/570	PAL	1.3	internal	c	457296	65936	523232	457248
			floppy	f	412704	104184	516888	412064
				t	870000	170120	1040120	457248
A500+/570	PAL	2.0	internal floppy	c	809744	237776	1047520	795144
A500+	PAL	2.0	internal floppy	c	839688	207864	1047552	838648

* c=chip; f=fast; t=total
FD = Floppy Drive; HD = Hard Drive