

Distribution on 3.5 inch diskettes: change of policy

INTRODUCTION

This is a bulletin announcing a change in the policy for distribution of software and zaps on 3½" diskettes. In general, from the end of August 1993, we will distribute on 1.4 Mb diskettes not 720 Kb. The change in policy has been formulated after feedback to bulletin GT615, which was distributed on 1st June 1993. It will allow you to install software more quickly and more easily and the increased capacity of autozaps diskettes will mean that we can include more fixes on one diskette.

The feedback to bulletin GT615 was all positive and indicated that we may change **every** configuration which currently allows distribution on B3B to allow distribution on O2A.

CHANGE BEING INTRODUCED – DISTRIBUTION MEDIA

We will convert most of those configurations which currently specify distribution of software on format B3B (720 Kb) to specify distribution on format O2A (1.4 Mb). We will make this change on the weekend of the 28th to 30th August 1993.

We can split computers into two categories:

Category A Computers with only 720 Kb diskettes

Those configurations for computers which do not support higher capacity configurations will continue to have software distributed on B3B; similarly, those configurations which are obsolete and/or are used by a very small number of users will also remain unchanged. The only computer in this category is the Apricot Xen-i.

Category B Computers with 1.4 Mb diskettes

Configurations for computers which support O2A will all be changed to allow distribution on O2A on the weekend of 28th August.

The table overleaf shows the changes to configurations. The changes will be made on the weekend of the 28th August.

CHANGE BRING INTRODUCED – AUTOZAPS

With the removal of formats C10A and R19A from the list of valid autozap formats in December 1993, B3B is the only stumbling block to a capacity of 1 Mb for all autozaps. We are therefore keen to drop B3B from the list of autozaps formats as soon as possible.

We will introduce O2A as an autozaps format from 31st August 1993. Of course, the autozaps format for a user defaults to the distribution format for that user. So users of configurations where the distribution format will change to O2A will receive autozaps on O2A from September 1993.

B3B will remain a valid format for autozaps until 31st August 1994. However, if from January 1994 we start to distribute more bug-fixes on autozaps than we have been doing we will not attempt to include such information on B3B diskettes.

TABLE OF AFFECTED CONFIGURATIONS

<i>Operating System and/or Computer</i>	<i>Version of System Manager</i>	<i>- format of distribution media -</i>	
		<i>Before 28th August</i>	<i>After 30th August</i>

Part 1 – Current Configurations

SunOS on the Sun SPARC	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
SCO	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
AIX V3.2 on the RS/6000	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
HP-UX version 8	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
MS-DOS (non LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
MS-DOS (LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
Novell (non-NLM)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
Novell (NLM)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on ISA/EISA bus; disk & tape via BIOS (non-LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on ISA/EISA bus; disk and tape via BIOS (LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on ISA/EISA bus; disk & tape via Adaptec (non-LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on ISA/EISA bus; disk and tape via Adaptec (LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on MCA bus (non-LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on MCA bus (LAN)	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A

Part 2 – Obsolescent Configurations

BOS on Apricot Xen-i	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	B3B
BOS on PS/2 model 30	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
BOS on PS/2 models 50 to 90	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
PCDOS	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
PCDOS – ARCNET	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
PCDOS – MPS LAN	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
Novell	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
SCO	6.0 (& 6.1)	B3B	O2A
BOS on Apricot Xen-i	6.2	B3B	B3B
BOS on PS/2 model 30	6.2	B3B	O2A
BOS on PS/2 models 50 to 90	6.2	B3B	O2A
PCDOS	6.2	B3B	O2A
PCDOS – LAN	6.2	B3B	O2A
Novell	6.2	B3B	O2A
SCO	6.2	B3B	O2A
SunOS on SPARC	6.2	B3B	O2A
AIX on RS/6000	6.2	B3B	O2A
BOS on Apricot Xen-i	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	B3B
BOS on IBM PS/2 model 30	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
BOS on IBM PS/2 model 50 to 90	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A
AIX V3.1 on the RS/6000	7.0 (& 8.0)	B3B	O2A