



Authorised Education
Reseller

MagnumMac
EDUCATION

PO Box 1144, 21 - 23 Carlyle Street
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Increasing Memory for Applications

Every application takes up a certain amount of memory when it is open. When applications were first put onto your computer, the manufacturer ‘told’ them how much memory each one needs to run properly. Unfortunately, this allocation is not always sufficient for some classroom uses.

What is Memory?

This type of memory is called RAM (*which stands for “Random Access Memory”*), which is what each application needs to work.

*A useful analogy to use when explaining how this works to your class is to think of how a car needs petrol to run. The more petrol it has, the further it can go (or the more it can do), in one trip. If your car doesn’t have enough petrol, then it can’t **do** many things at once. The computer is the same, it needs a certain amount of petrol (or RAM) to do the things you want it to do.*

The more RAM you have, the more applications you can have running at the same time.

How much Memory does my Computer have?

You can find this out by going to the Finder, selecting “*Hide Others*”, and then going over to the *Apple menu* and selecting “*About This Computer*”.

Your computer will then bring up a screen that shows you all sorts of information, the part we are interested in is circled.

Built-in Memory: 64 MB
Virtual Memory: Off
Largest Unused Block: 5.2 MB

This is the amount of installed RAM your computer has.

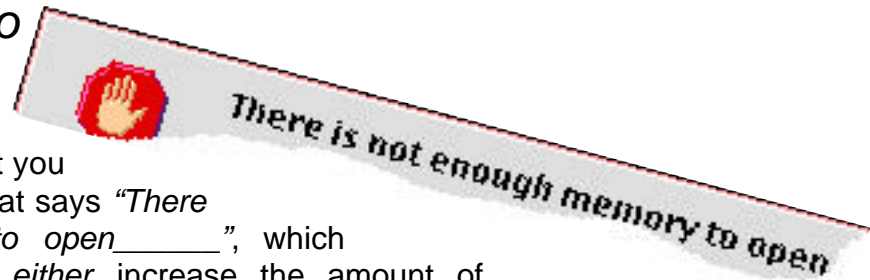


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When do I need to know this?



Sometimes you will find that you get a box on your screen that says “*There is not enough memory to open _____*”, which means that you need to *either* increase the amount of memory currently allocated to the application you wish to use; **or** your computer requires more RAM to be installed.

What do I need to do?

Follow these steps to increase the amount of RAM that your application uses:

1. Quit out of all applications that are open.
2. Open up your hard drive (in the top left corner of your screen), and then open the *Applications* folder.



3. Open the folder that has the application inside it (let's use HyperStudio as an example).

4. Click **once** on the application itself.
5. Go to the “*File*” menu and select “*Get Info*”.





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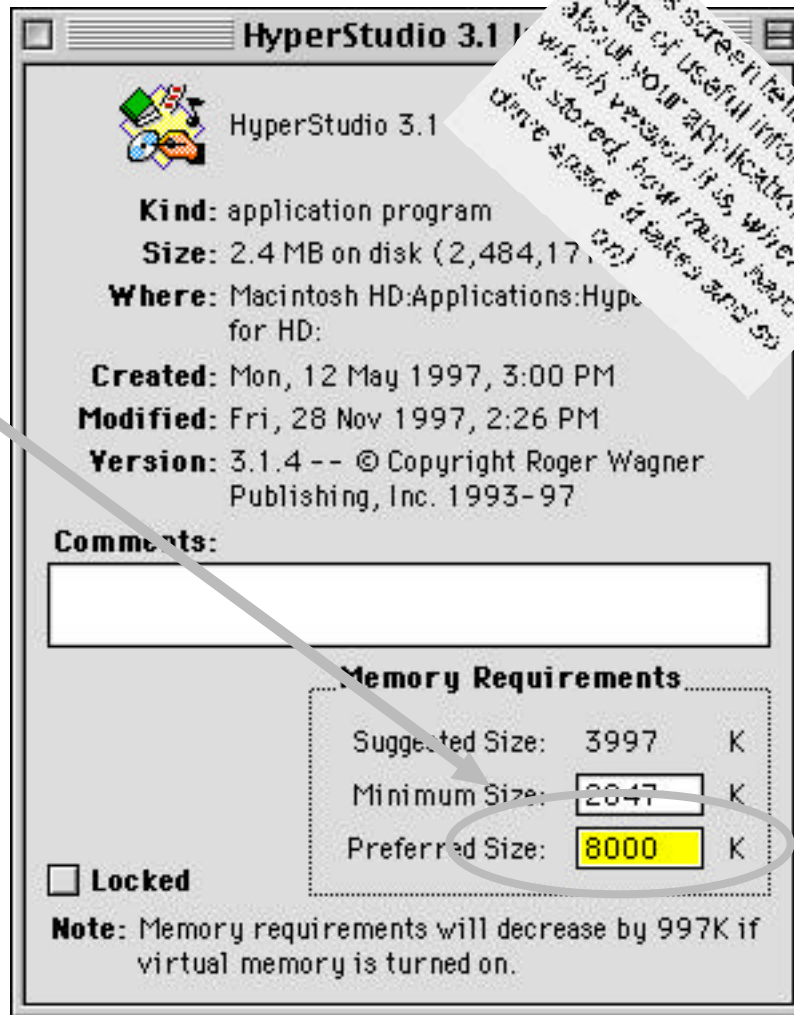
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6. You will get a screen that looks like this:

7. The part we are concerned with is the bit that has a circle around it.

8. Increase this number by about 1000 each time you require more memory.

9. Close off this window and open the file or application you were working with. If you still have memory problems, then increase the Preferred Size again.



Now you will be able to do some of the things you want to do with your computer, such as:

- exciting ClarisWorks/Kid Pix Slideshows and HyperStudio stacks
- opening up files that take large amounts of memory
- playing larger movies using MoviePlayer
- using more than one application at the same time

Rob Clarke
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