A Word About Operating Systems

What Is an Operating System?

An operating system is the master software that controls a computer's resources. Application programs (word processing, games, and so on) are designed to work with a specific operating system.

Computers in the Apple II family are not limited to one operating system. Before ProDOS™, DOS 3.2 and then DOS 3.3 were the standard operating systems. Thousands of application programs work with them.

What Is ProDOS?

Apple recently introduced ProDOS, a fast, easy to use operating system. ProDOS can be used with high-capacity disks, and its advanced file structure is compatible with that of the Apple III. ProDOS makes possible more sophisticated application programs for the Apple II family of computers. Many of these programs are on the market already.

When Will I Need the DOS 3.3 System Master?

Many application programs require you to use the DOS 3.3 System Master to prepare disks and to copy disks and files. If all of your programs are ProDOS based, you don't now need the DOS 3.3 System Master—but you should save it in case you later acquire DOS 3.3 based programs.

What If I've Been Using DOS 3.2?

If you have been using only DOS 3.2, you may need to upgrade your hardware before you can use ProDOS. See your dealer for details.

Where Can I Learn More?

For instructions on preparing and copying DOS 3.3 disks, see Chapter 4 of the *Apple IIe Owner's Manual*, or follow the instructions that came with the DOS 3.3 application program. For more information, ask your dealer for the DOS 3.3 User's Kit.

For instructions on preparing and copying disks with ProDOS, see the *ProDOS Supplement to the Apple IIe Owner's Manual*. For complete information on ProDOS, see your *ProDOS User's Manual*.