

## Re: Find Info>File Size Discrepancies

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2005-08/msg00500.html>

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- *From:* "John McGhie [MVP – Word and Word Macintosh]" <[john@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:john@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 20 Aug 2005 22:58:51 +1000
- 

Hi Rafael:

Yes, I understand that you are using floppies because of hardware failure that you are getting fixed. Just to clarify what I said:

1) Microsoft is desperately trying to avoid admitting to the world (and particularly to the lawyers amongst us...) that Fast Saves corrupts documents. So they keep writing the Help from the original design specification of how it was "supposed" to work.

The truth is: "If you allow fast saves to occur, you WILL corrupt documents." When a Fast Save corrupts a document, you get NONE of the file back.

The sad reality is that to work, fast saves requires the hardware to work "perfectly". As you have discovered, removable media devices simply don't work perfectly "all of the time".

The Help on fast saves is misleading. It always has been misleading. It describes what happens when everything works perfectly. It does not describe what happens in reality, which is that floppy drives produce errors (every storage device does, it's just that floppies can't automatically correct their errors like hard disks and memory can ...)

2) If you SAVE to a floppy, Word always has two copies at the save destination.

A) If you have Fast Saves on, the file is twice the size

B) If you have fast saves OFF, there are two copies on the disk during the save process: the new one being written, and the old one which is not deleted until the save succeeds. So you need twice the file size available in disk space.

C) If you have Always make backup on, there are two copies on the disk: the original, and the backup. During the save there are three: the new one being written, the old one about to be renamed as the backup, and the previous backup waiting to be deleted. You need three times the file size

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available on disk.

3) If you COPY to the floppy using the Finder, you only need space on the disk sufficient for one copy of the file. If the file already exists on the disk, you do not need any extra space because the file will be overwritten during the copy.

When you COPY to another disk, the original remains on your hard disk. If you MOVE, the file is first written to the floppy, then deleted from the hard. Don't MOVE files to floppies.

So: Turn fast saves off and work on your hard disk. Copy to the floppy for backup at the end of each working session.

If you have OSX you can use .Zip or Stuffit to compress the files to take up less disk space. A Word document will compress to as little as half its size, depending on what's in it.

Hope this helps

On 20/8/05 2:44 AM, in article BF2B5A64.7C8C%raf44ae198@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, "Montserrat" <raf44ae198@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> <sup>3</sup>You've left Fast Saves turned on. Turn it off... <sup>3</sup>  
>  
> Hi John,  
>  
> I turned off Fast Save  
>  
> In Help I found this:  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>If you select the Always create backup copy check box on the Save tab in  
> the Preferences dialog box (Edit menu), Word clears the Allow fast saves  
> check box, because backup copies can be created only with full saves.<sup>3</sup>  
>  
> (I have had <sup>1</sup>Always create backup copy<sup>1</sup> check box on as a safety should the  
> computer crash. This has saved my .... in the past. What didn't happen is  
> that <sup>?</sup>Allow fast saves<sup>1</sup> was never cleared.)  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>Select the Allow fast saves check box when you are working on a very large  
> document.<sup>3</sup>  
>  
> (that's also why I <sup>3</sup>allowed fast saves<sup>2</sup>, because my MS is a whole novel.)  
>  
> <sup>3</sup>However, a full save requires less disk space than a fast save.  
>  
> You should do a full save in the following situations:  
> <sup>?</sup> When you finish working on a document and save it for the last time.<sup>3</sup>  
>  
> (Does that mean going back to preferences and checking <sup>3</sup>full save<sup>3</sup> at the  
> end of a work period?)

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>  
> <sup>3</sup>? Before you begin a task that uses a lot of memory, such as searching for  
> text or compiling an index.<sup>3</sup>  
>  
> In fast save, I often search for text and don't have a problem.  
>  
> As for floppies, my zip drive is not working and with the kind of five  
> minute or so back ups that I need to do, the CD burner isn't a practical  
> device.  
>  
> Having used the floppies for a couple of weeks, I have been making  
> successful transfers of the 900k document. Do you mean that when the  
> original document is dragged over, it stays on the disk ? I don't understand  
> this happening because certainly 950x2 would be 1.9MB which the floppy  
> wouldn't take ? that the original document does not stay securely on my HD,  
> but is now only on the floppy? As above, I don't understand this as what's  
> been happening.  
>  
> The floppies seem reliable enough (I make copies on two floppies) and I  
> frequently make a backup to CD.  
>  
> Of course I like the Zip better. I'm working with an apple peripherals disc  
> group now to try to fix zip drive.  
>  
> Thanks, Rafael  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Look in the help under "fast saves"  
>  
> And don't save from Word to a floppy. Not EVER. They're not big enough,  
> and they're not reliable enough...  
>  
> Close the document and transfer it using Finder. If you save, you need  
> twice the size of the document on the floppy, because Word writes the new  
> version before deleting the old one. If it fails because the disk runs out  
> of room, chances are you will lose both versions.  
>  
> Cheers  
>  
> On 19/8/05 9:39 AM, in article BF2A6A31.7C7A%raf44ael98@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,  
> "Montserrat" <raf44ael98@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:  
>  
>> Hi,  
>>  
>> This problem may have come up before on the newsgroup, but I still don't  
>> understand it.  
>>  
>> I've been working with a 975k file and able to back up onto a 1.2mb floppy.

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>> I am presently forced to use these teeny-weeny disks. I've been working on  
>> the document in the HD and backing up onto floppy, since the file on both  
>> has been the same size. The only thing that I've done since the last backup  
>> is change around a few words in the header, and moved a couple of chapter  
>> beginnings down three inches. Nothing.  
>>  
>> Just now I went to back up HD doc to floppy and it wouldn't saying not  
>> enough room. In the get info for the HD document I get 2.2MB. I made a  
>> select copy paste into a new word document and get info says 1.2 MB. The  
>> bytes amounts in get infos are proportional to the differences in MB.  
>>  
>> I don't get it.  
>>  
>> Thanks  
>>

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Please reply to the newsgroup to maintain the thread. Please do not email me unless I ask you to.

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ [Re: Find Info>File Size Discrepancies](#)  
◇ From: Montserrat

• *References:*

- ◆ [Find Info>File Size Discrepancies](#)  
◇ From: Montserrat
- ◆ [Re: Find Info>File Size Discrepancies](#)  
◇ From: John McGhie [MVP – Word and Word Macintosh]
- ◆ [Re: Find Info>File Size Discrepancies](#)  
◇ From: Montserrat

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