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# AHDI 3.00 Release Notes

May 4, 1989

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# Hard Disk Partitioning

AHDI 3.00 adds support for hard disks with more than four partitions and partitions of size greater than or equal to 16 Mb. There are still only four 12-byte structures (called p?\_info) to describe partition information in the first sector (physical sector #0) on a hard disk. Physical sector #0 is called the root sector.

The root sector (physical sector #0) on a hard disk contains this information:

	Offset
hd_siz	(\$1c2)
p0_flg p0_id p0_st p0_siz	(\$1c6)
p1_flg p1_id p1_st p1_siz	(\$1d2)
p2_flg p2_id p2_st p2_siz	(\$1de)
p3_flg p3_id p3_st p3_siz	(\$1ea)
bsl_st	(\$1f6)
bsl_cnt	(\$1fa)
(reserved)	(\$1fe)
	(\$200)

Figure 1

- hd\_siz** A 68000 format long word that contains the total size of the disk, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.
- bsl\_st** A 68000 format long word that specifies the offset to the beginning of the bad sector list from the beginning of the entire hard disk, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors. (Typically the bad sector list will be located at the beginning of the device right after the root sector.)
- bsl\_cnt** A 68000 format long word that specifies the size of the bad sector list, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.

There are two kinds of partitions, *standard* partitions and *extended* partitions. A *standard* partition can be a *regular* partition (that is, a partition whose size is < 16Mb), or a *big* partition (that is, a partition whose size is >= 16Mb). The first sector in a standard partition is a boot sector (which, on the ST, will contain a BIOS Parameter Block). For more information about big partitions, refer to BIG GEMDOS PARTITIONS. An *extended* partition is a special kind of partition which itself is subdivided into standard partitions. For more information about extended partitions, refer to EXTENDED GEMDOS PARTITIONS.

A hard disk may contain up to four standard partitions, or up to three standard partitions and one extended partition.

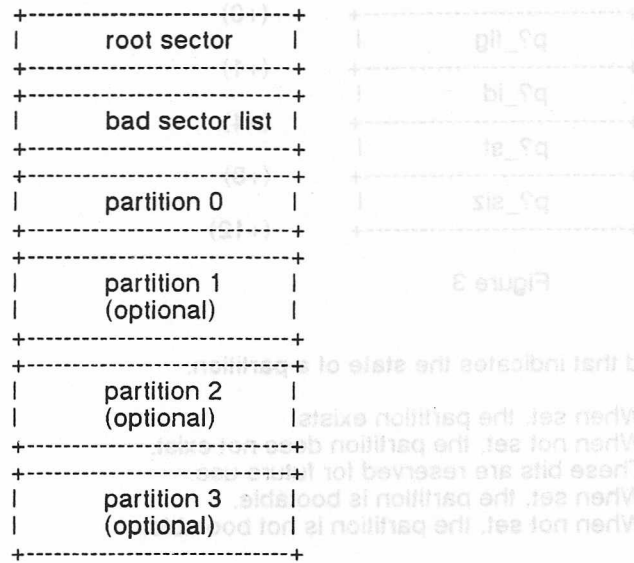


Figure 2

Each partition (standard or extended) is described by a 12-byte partition information structure (p?\_info where ? = 0, 1, 2, 3):

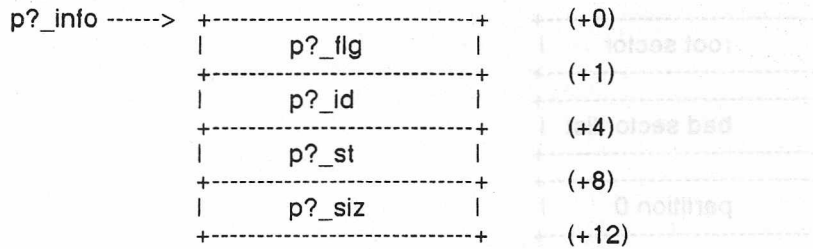


Figure 3

p?\_flg

A 1-byte field that indicates the state of a partition.

- Bit 0      When set, the partition exists.  
            When not set, the partition does not exist.
- Bit 1-6    These bits are reserved for future use.
- Bit 7      When set, the partition is bootable.  
            When not set, the partition is not bootable.

The BIOS will boot the first partition that has bit 7 set in this byte.

p?\_id

A 3-byte field that identifies the partition. The field may contain the three ASCII characters:  
 "GEM" - for regular ( < 16Mb ) GEMDOS partitions  
 "BGM" - for big ( >= 16Mb ) GEMDOS partitions  
 "XGM" - for extended GEMDOS partitions

p?\_st

A 68000 format long word that specifies the offset to the beginning of the partition from the beginning of the entire hard disk, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.

p?\_siz

A 68000 format long word that specifies the size of the partition, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.

# Extended GEMDOS Partitions

The extended GEMDOS partition enables a hard disk to contain more than 4 partitions. Only one of the 4 partition information structures (p?\_info as defined above) can contain an extended partition. The extended partition is identified by the ASCII characters "XGM" in the 3-byte p?\_id field of a p?\_info structure in the root sector. For more information about the structure of the extended GEMDOS partition, refer to INSIDE THE EXTENDED GEMDOS PARTITION.

Since an extended partition is not bootable, it *must* be preceded by at least one standard partition, so the hard disk can be made bootable. This requirement makes it impossible for partition 0 to be an extended partition. A partitioning utility (e.g. HDX) should only create an extended partition if at least one preceding standard partition already exists. A utility that installs a bootable driver onto the hard disk (e.g. HINSTALL) should never mark an extended partition as bootable.

# Inside the Extended GEMDOS Partition

The extended GEMDOS partition is a partition which is subdivided into smaller ones. Each subdivision consists of an extended root sector (a 512-byte sector), and a standard partition. Conceptually, each subdivision is like a stand-alone hard disk with only one partition on it. These subdivisions are "linked" together by a pointer in the extended root sector.

The layout of an extended root sector resembles that of the root sector (refer to Figure 1), except that fields like `hd_siz`, `bsl_st` and `bsl_cnt` are not applicable in an extended root sector. Only two of the four `p?_info` structures would be used, but not necessarily the first two. One of the `p?_info` structures is used to describe the standard partition in the current subdivision, the other one provides a link to the next subdivision. The link should occupy a `p?_info` structure that follows the `p?_info` structure for the description of the standard partition. The other two unused `p?_info` structures should be filled with zeroes. Refer to Figure 3 for the layout of a `p?_info` structure.

For the standard partition description, the definitions of the fields in a `p?_info` structure are:

- `p?_flg`      A 1-byte field that is used as a bit-vector of flags. Currently only bit 0 is being used; when set it indicates that this `p?_info` structure is being used. The remaining bits are reserved for future use.
- `p?_id`      A 3-byte field that identifies the partition. The field *must* contain the three ASCII characters:  
"GEM" - for regular ( < 16Mb ) GEMDOS partitions  
"BGM" - for big ( >= 16Mb ) GEMDOS partitions
- `p?_st`      A 68000 format long word that specifies the offset to the beginning of the standard partition from the beginning of the extended root sector that this structure resides in, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.
- `p?_siz`      A 68000 format long word that specifies the size of the standard partition in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.

For the link to the next subdivision, the definitions of the fields in the `p?_info` structure are:

- `p?_flg`      A 1-byte field that is used as a bit-vector of flags. Currently only bit 0 is being used; when set it indicates that this `p?_info` structure is being used. The remaining bits are reserved for future use.
- `p?_id`      A 3-byte field that identifies the partition. The field *must* contain "XGM" to specify that information in this `p?_info` structure provides a link to the next subdivision.
- `p?_st`      A 68000 format long word that specifies the offset to the beginning of the next subdivision from the beginning of the entire extended GEMDOS partition, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.
- `p?_siz`      A 68000 format long word that specifies the size of the next subdivision, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors.

# Big GEMDOS Partitions

A *big* GEMDOS partition is one whose size is greater than or equal to 16Mb. A big GEMDOS partition is identified by the ASCII characters "BGM" in the 3-byte p?\_id field of a p?\_info structure in the root sector or an extended root sector. Since a big GEMDOS partition is just like a regular partition, only bigger, it can be made bootable. For information about how to read from or write to big partitions, refer to BIOS FUNCTION - RWABS().

With AHDI 3.00, a partition can be as big as the capacity of a hard disk or 1 Gigabyte, whichever is smaller. A big partition is achieved by having bigger logical sectors within the partition. Each time the size of a logical sector is doubled, the maximum size of a partition is doubled. The maximum size of 1 Gigabyte is obtained as follows:

- Maximum size of a cluster, in number of bytes =  $2^{16} = 65536$
- Size of a cluster, in number of logical sectors = 2
- Maximum size of a logical sector, in number of bytes =  $65536 / 2 = 32768$
- Maximum size of a partition, in number of logical sectors =  $2^{15} = 32768$
- Maximum size of a partition, in number of bytes =  $32768 * 32768 = 1 \text{ Gigabyte}$

# BIOS Parameter Blocks

Each standard partition is represented as a logical drive. The BIOS Parameter Block, called the BPB, provides information about a logical drive. The structure of the BPB has not changed, but the meanings of some fields have.

The 9-word BIOS Parameter Block (BPB) contains this information:

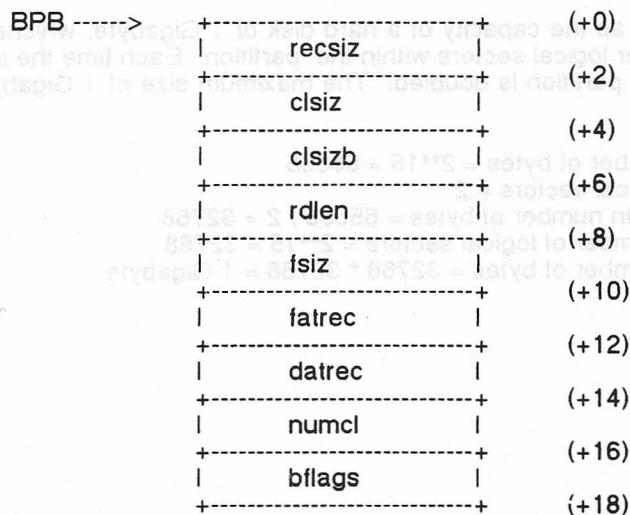


Figure 4

All words in the structure are in 68000 format.

- recsiz**      A word that indicates the number of bytes in a logical sector. A logical sector may contain one or more physical (512-byte) sectors.
- clsiz**        A word that indicates the number of logical sectors in a cluster. The only value supported by GEMDOS is 2.
- clsizb**      A word that indicates the number of bytes in a cluster. The value is  $clsiz * recsiz$ .
- rdlen**        A word that specifies the size of the root directory, in number of logical sectors. A directory entry uses 32 bytes, so the number of files a root directory can contain is  $rdlen * recsiz / 32$ .
- fsiz**         A word that specifies the size of each File Allocation Table (FAT), in number of logical sectors.
- fatrec**      A word that specifies the offset to the first sector of the second FAT from the beginning of the logical drive, in number of logical sectors.
- datrec**      A word that specifies the starting logical sector number of the first data cluster on the logical drive.
- numcl**        A word that specifies the number of data clusters on the logical drive.
- bflags**        A word that is used as a bit-vector of flags. Currently only bit 0 is being used; when set it indicates that 16-bit FAT entries (instead of 12-bit ones) are to be used. The remaining bits are reserved.



# Boot Sectors

The boot sector is the first logical sector on the logical drive and it occupies one logical sector. When a logical sector contains more than one physical (512-byte) sectors, a boot sector will be bigger than 512 bytes. However, only the first 512 bytes of a boot sector are used, no matter how big the boot sector might be. The layout of the first 512 bytes of a big boot sector is identical to a regular (512-byte) boot sector, the rest of the boot sector is zero-filled.

The first 512 bytes of a boot sector contains the following information:

	Offset
boot code (if any)	(\$0)
SERIAL 24-bit volume serial #	(\$8)
bps	(\$b)
spc	(\$d)
res	(\$e)
nfats	(\$10)
ndirs	(\$11)
nsects	(\$13)
media	(\$15)
spfl	(\$16)
nsides	(\$18)
nhid	(\$1c)
boot code (if any)	(\$1e)
	(\$200)

Figure 5

- boot code** Byte \$0 through \$8, and byte \$1e through \$200 are "don't cares" if the hard drive is not bootable. If the hard drive is bootable, they may contain boot code.
- serial #** A 24-bit serial number that is used to help determine if the user has changed cartridges in a removable drive. The serial number is generated randomly and written when a cartridge is partitioned.
- bps** An 8086 format word that indicates the size of a logical sector, in number of bytes. One logical sector may contain more than one physical (512-byte) sectors.

spc	A 1-byte field that indicates the size of a cluster, in number of logical sectors. The only value supported by GEMDOS is 2.
res	An 8086 format word that indicates the number of reserved logical sectors at the beginning of the logical drive, including the boot sector. The value of res is usually 1.
nfats	A 1-byte field that indicates the number of File Allocation Tables (FAT) on the logical drive. The value of nfats is usually 2.
ndirs	An 8086 format word that indicates the number of root directory entries on the logical drive.
nsects	An 8086 format word that indicates the total number of logical sectors on the logical drive, including the reserved sectors.
media	A 1-byte field that describes the kind of media the logical drive resides on. For hard disk, the value of media is \$f8. The ST BIOS does not use this byte.
spf	An 8086 format word that indicates the size of each FAT, in number of logical sectors.
spt	An 8086 format word that indicates the size of each track, in number of sectors. This field is not applicable to a hard drive.
nsides	An 8086 format word that indicates the number of sides on the media. This field is not applicable to a hard drive.
nhid	An 8086 format word that indicates the number of hidden sectors. This field is not applicable to a hard drive.

The first 512 bytes of an *executable* boot sector *must* word-checksum to the magic number \$1234. The last 2 bytes (at offset \$1fe) is used for "evening out" checksums. In particular, the Extended BIOS function \_Protobt() modifies these 2 bytes. During system initialization, the first 512 bytes of the boot sector from a logical drive are loaded into a buffer. If the checksum is correct, the system JSRs the first byte of the buffer. Since the location of the buffer is indeterminant, any code contained in the boot sector must be position-independent.

When a "Get BPB" call is made, the driver reads the first 512 bytes of the boot sector and examines the prototype BIOS parameter block (BPB). A BPB is constructed from the prototype. If the prototype looks strange (e.g. if critical fields in it are zero) the driver returns zero (as an error indication).

# Patchable Variables

In AHDI 3.00, a few variables in the driver are made patchable for the user. These variables do not exist in previous versions of AHDI.PRГ or SHDRIVER.SYS. They are placed at the beginning of the driver file (AHDI.PRГ or SHDRIVER.SYS).

	Offset
-----+-----	(\$c)
Magic number	(\$e)
-----+-----	(\$12)
Version number	(\$14)
-----+-----	(\$16)
Ospool size	(\$18)
-----+-----	(\$19)
Def_sect_siz	(\$18 + (n - 1))
-----+-----	(\$18 + n)
# entries in def_ndrv	
-----+-----	
1st entry of def_ndrv	
-----+-----	
nth entry of def_ndrv	
-----+-----	

Figure 6

- Magic number**      A value of \$f0ad in this word indicates that there are patchable variables in that version of the driver. This magic number \$f0ad does not exist in previous versions of AHDI.PRГ or SHDRIVER.SYS.
- Version number**      A 68000 format word that indicates which version of the driver this is. For AHDI 3.00, its value is \$0300. This version number does not exist in previous versions of AHDI.PRГ or SHDRIVER.SYS.
- Ospool size**      A 68000 format word that specifies how many "chunks" of memory to add to the OS pool. The default is 128. The size of each chunk is 66 bytes. This number will only be used when the ROM version on your system requires that OS pool be added.
- Def\_sect\_siz**      A word that specifies the default logical sector size (in number of bytes) the system will handle. 512 bytes is the smallest number you can specify, which is also the default value of def\_sect\_siz. The driver will use this number, or the size of the biggest logical sector it could find on all logical drives on the system, whichever is bigger, to be the size of the buffers on the GEMDOS buffer lists.  
  
This is useful when you need to switch cartridges on a removable drive (e.g. MEGAFILE 44) often, and the cartridges are partitioned differently. At boot time, the driver will use this number, or the size of the biggest logical sector on all logical drives, whichever is bigger, to allocate buffers for the GEMDOS buffer lists.  
  
For example, suppose that you boot up the system and the size of the biggest logical sector on all logical drives is 512 bytes. Later, you need something from a cartridge that has a partition whose logical sectors are 1024 bytes big (call it Cartridge A). If the default logical sector size has not been set to be greater than 512, you cannot access this partition on Cartridge A whose logical sectors are 1024 bytes big, because the GEMDOS buffers are not big enough for its logical sectors.  
  
You can reboot with Cartridge A in the drive (so the driver allocates bigger buffers), or you can change this patchable variable so the driver always allocates

1024-byte buffers. You will have to reboot in any case, so the driver can allocate the big enough GEMDOS buffers.

# entries in def\_ndrv

A word that specifies the size of the def\_ndrv array in number of bytes. The current value of this word is 8, which is the maximum number of ACSI units being supported.

Def\_ndrv is an array of bytes that specifies default number of drive letters to be reserved for each ACSI unit. The indices into the array are the physical unit numbers of the ACSI units. This number will only be used if an ACSI unit is a removable hard drive.

This is useful when you need to switch cartridges on a removable drive (e.g. MEGAFILE 44) often, and the cartridges are partitioned differently. At boot time, the driver will use this number, or the number of logical drives on a removable ACSI hard drive, whichever is bigger, and assign that number of drive letters to that particular unit.

For example, suppose that you boot with a cartridge that has two partitions on it (call it Cartridge A) in the removable drive. Later, you need something from another cartridge that has four partitions on it (Cartridge B). If the def\_ndrv entry for this removable drive has not been set to be greater than two, you cannot access the last two partitions on Cartridge B, because only two drive letters were reserved for this removable drive.

You can reboot with Cartridge B in the drive (so the driver reserves four drive letters), or you can change this patchable variable so the driver always reserves four drive letters for this physical unit. You will have to reboot in any case, so the new distribution of drive letters is recognized.

1st-nth entry in def\_ndrv

A byte that specifies the default number of drive letters to be reserved for unit i, where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ . The default value for every entry is 1.

# PUN\_PTR

The TOS system variable pun\_ptr at \$516 points to the following structure:

```
#define      MAXUNITS      16

struct      pun_info {
WORD        puns;
BYTE        pun[MAXUNITS];
LONG        partition_start[MAXUNITS];
LONG        cookie;
LONG        cookie_ptr;
WORD        version_num;
WORD        max_sect_siz;
LONG        reserved[16];
}
```

Cookie, cookie\_ptr, version\_num, max\_sect\_siz and the reserved fields are the new fields in this structure.

- MAXUNITS** A constant that specifies the maximum number of logical drives (including floppy drives A: and B:) supported by the system.
- puns** A word that indicates the number of accessible physical units (hard drives) that are connected to the system.
- pun** An array of bytes that indicates which physical unit each logical drive resides on. The indices into the array are the logical drive numbers, where 0 is for A:, 1 is for B:, 2 is for C: and so on. Each byte is broken down into:
- Bit 0-2 The 3-bit value is the physical ACSI unit number of the unit that the logical drive resides on.
  - Bit 3-6 These bits are reserved for future use.
  - Bit 7 When set, this bit indicates that the logical drive does not exist. When not set, it indicates that the logical drive exists.
- partition\_start** An array of longs that indicates the offset to the beginning of each logical drive from the beginning of the entire physical unit, in number of physical (512-byte) sectors. The indices into the array are the logical drive numbers, where 0 is for A:, 1 is for B:, 2 is for C: and so on.
- cookie** A long that indicates more information is following. This cookie does not exist in previous versions of the loaded driver, and so allows programs to determine whether the information they are looking for exists in the version which is running. The value of the cookie is \$41484449, which is 'AHD!' in ASCII.
- cookie\_ptr** A pointer (which is a long) that points to the cookie. This value is filled in when the driver gets loaded. This allows programs to be sure that they have found the right cookie, not just any random 'AHD!' in RAM.
- version\_num** A word that indicates which version of the driver is running. For AHD! 3.00, the value of version\_num is \$0300.
- max\_sect\_siz** A word that indicates the size of the biggest logical sector the system will support. The value is either the size of the biggest logical sector found or the def\_sect\_siz (as defined in PATCHABLE VARIABLES above), whichever is bigger. This is also the size of the buffers on the GEMDOS buffer lists. If you are writing a program to add buffers to the GEMDOS buffer lists, make sure those buffers are as big as max\_sect\_siz. This variable is also useful when a program needs to know how big a buffer should be allocated for a logical sector. Allocating max\_sect\_siz bytes would guarantee the buffer is big enough for any logical sector on all the logical drives.

## BIOS Function - RWABS()

Rwabs() is the BIOS call that lets you read or write sectors (logical or physical) on a device. It now takes an extra parameter to address larger hard disks.

LONG rwabs(rwflag, buf, count, recno, dev, lrecno)  
WORD rwflag;  
LONG buf;  
WORD count, recno, dev;  
LONG lrecno; /\* this is the new parameter \*/

**rwflag** A bit-vector that indicates the mode of the operation.  
Bit 0 when set, it's a write operation.  
when not set, it's a read operation  
Bit 1 when set, ignores media change  
when not set, does not ignore media change  
Bit 2 when set, turns off retry  
when not set, retries when necessary  
Bit 3 when set, operates in physical mode  
when not set, operates in logical mode

**buf** A pointer to a buffer to read or write to. In logical mode, the size of the buffer must be at least count \* (size of the logical sector). In physical mode, the size of the buffer must be at least count \* 512 bytes.

**count** In logical mode, this word specifies the number logical sectors to read or write. In physical mode, it specifies the number of physical (512-byte) sectors to read or write.

**recno** In logical mode, this word specifies the first logical sector to read from or write to. In physical mode, it specifies the first physical sector to read from or write to.  
If recno is -1, lrecno will be used instead.

**dev** In logical mode, dev specifies the logical drive to read from or write to, and is 0 or 1 for floppy drives A: or B: respectively, and 2+ for hard disks (where 2 is for C:, 3 is for D:, and so on). In physical mode, it specifies the physical unit number of a hard disk, where 2 is for unit 0, 3 is for unit 1, and so on.

**lrecno** A long word that specifies the first logical or physical sector to read from or write to. This new parameter is optional and is used only when recno equals -1.

If a logical sector contains more than one physical (512-byte) sectors, Rwabs() will translate the logical sector number to the corresponding physical sector number. Rwabs() will also translate the count of logical sectors to a count of physical sectors. The caller just needs to provide a buffer of appropriate size as specified above.



# Forcing Media Change

The following is also documented in the Rainbow TOS (TOS 1.4) release notes.

```
*-----*
*
* mediach: cause media-change on a logical device.
*
* USAGE:
*   errcode = mediach(devno); /* returns 1 for error */
*   int errcode, devno;
*
* This procedure causes a media change by installing a new
* handler for the mediach, rwabs, and getbpb vectors; for device
* devno, the mediach handler returns "definitely changed," and
* the rwabs handler returns E_CHNG, until the new getbpb handler
* is called. The new getbpb handler un-installs the new
* handlers.
*
* After installing the new handlers, this procedure performs a
* disk operation (e.g. open a file) which makes GEMDOS check
* the media-change status of the drive: this will trigger the
* new rwabs, mediach and getbpb handlers to do their things.
*
* RETURNS: 0 for no error, 1 for error (GEMDOS didn't ever do a
* getbpb call; should never happen).
*-----*
```

```
_mediach:      .globl      _mediach
              move.w     4(sp),d0
              move.w     d0,mydev
              add.b      #'A',d0
              move.b     d0,fspec      ; set drive spec for search first

loop:
              clr.l      -(sp)        ; get super mode, leave old ssp
              move.w     #$20,-(sp)   ; and "super" function code on stack
              trap       #1
              addq       #6,sp
              move.l     d0,-(sp)
              move.w     #$20,-(sp)

              move.l     $472,oldgetbpb
              move.l     $47e,oldmediach
              move.l     $476,oldrwabs

              move.l     #newgetbpb,$472
              move.l     #newmediach,$47e
              move.l     #newrwabs,$476
```



```

; Fopen a file on that drive
move.w #0,-(sp)
move.l #fspec,-(sp)
move.w #3d,-(sp)
trap #1
addq #8,sp

; Fclose the handle we just got
tst.l d0
bmi.s noclose

move.w d0,-(sp)
move.w #3e,-(sp)
trap #1
addq #4,sp

noclose:
moveq #0,d7
cmp.l #newgetbpb,$472 ; still installed?
bne.s done ; nope

moveq #1,d7 ; yup! remove & return TRUE
move.l oldgetbpb,$472
move.l oldmediach,$47e
move.l oldrwabs,$476

done:
trap #1 ; go back to user mode (use stuff
addq #5,sp ; left on stack above)

move.l d7,d0
rts

*-----*
* new getbpb: if it's our device, uninstall vectors;
* in any case, call the old getbpb vector (to really
* get it)
*-----*

newgetbpb:
move.w mydev,d0
cmp.w 4(sp),d0
bne.s dooldg
move.l oldgetbpb,$472 ; it's mine: un-install new vectors
move.l oldmediach,$47e
move.l oldrwabs,$476
dooldg:
move.l oldgetbpb,a0 ; continue here whether mine or not:
; call old.

jmp (a0)

```

```

*-----*
*
* new mediach: if it's our device, return 2; else call old.
*
*-----*

```

```

newmediach:
    move.w    mydev,d0
    cmp.w    4(sp),d0
    bne.s    dooldm
    moveq.l  #2,d0                ; it's mine: return 2
                                   ; (definitely changed)
    rts

dooldm:     move.l    oldmediach,a0 ; not mine: call old vector.
            jmp      (a0)

```

```

*-----*
*
* newrwabs: return E_CHG (-14) if it's my device
*
*-----*

```

```

newrwabs:
    move.w    mydev,d0
    cmp.w    $e(sp),d0
    bne.s    dooldr
    moveq.l  #-14,d0
    rts

dooldr:     move.l    oldmediach,a0
            jmp      (a0)

```

```

.data
fspec:     dc.b    "X:\\X",0      ; file to look for (doesn't matter)

.bss
mydev:     ds.w    1
oldgetbpb: ds.l    1
oldmediach: ds.l  1
oldrwabs:  ds.l    1

```

```

*-----*
*
* end of mediach
*
*-----*

```