

Automatically Starting a Ram Disk

How is this useful?

If you need to work on a large file copy it to a ramdisk and work on it from there. Manipulating a large photo, movie or database will be lightening fast compared to manipulating the file from the hard disk.

WARNINGS:

- 1) For this to be useful you need to have a lot of RAM to start with. If your computer has only 2GB of ram this is not useful. If you have 4 or more then it might be useful to create a ram disk with part of the extra. If you have 8GB or more then you can comfortably create a 4GB ram disk.
- 2) if you shut down or log off or there is a power outage the ram disk and its contents will be lost. BE SURE TO COPY THE FILE(S) BACK TO YOUR HARD DRIVE.

How to do it?

To create a ram disk open terminal and type
`diskutil erasevolume HFS+ "ramdisk" `hdiutil attach -nomount ram://9323440``
This creates a ram disk that is almost 5 gigs. The number 9323440 is the number of 512B blocks that are created. To create a 2GB disk the math is
 $2000000000 / 512 = 3906250$.

How to Automate the Process?

To automate this use TextEdit to create a file called perhaps *StartRamDisk.sh*. The *.sh* tells the computer this is a shell script. The file should contain:

```
#!/bin/bash
diskutil erasevolume HFS+ "ramdisk" `hdiutil attach -nomount ram://9323440`
exit
```

Save this file where ever you want.

Do a right click on the file and select "Get Info" from the drop down menu. Just below the middle of the resulting information box is a tab called "Open with:". From this drop down menu either select "Terminal" if it is in the list

or

"Other" and navigate to "Applications --> Utilities" and select "Terminal".

Now go into system preferences and select "Accounts" and in "Login Items" click the '+' and navigate to the file and select it. Now log off and on again and there on the right side will be a disk called "ramdisk". You can copy whatever you want to it but remember it will be deleted when you logoff.