ACCESSING YOUR FLOPPY DISK DRIVE

In the April 24, 1990, Tutor column, Jon Spencer wrote to you about a 1.2MB floppy drive that didn't recognize disk changes ("Floppy Disk Woes"). We recently encountered the same problem but fixed it by adding the following command

```
DRIVPARM=/D:0 /F:1
```

to CONFIG.SYS. Note that the /C switch has been omitted. This will force DOS to read the disk each time the disk is accessed rather than search its internal disk buffers.

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This is a clever solution to the problem, and one that doesn't require any tinkering with the hardware. The DRIVPARM directive (available in MS-DOS 3.2 and later, but not in any version of PC-DOS) modifies the internal tables DOS maintains that define the characteristics of the floppy disk drives attached to the system.

The /D:0 switch designates that the A: drive is the one to be changed (use /D:1 for the B: drive), and /F:1 identifies it as a 1.2MB drive. The key here is that the /C switch, which says that the associated drive has a diskette change line, is omitted, fooling DOS into thinking that there is no change line. As a result, DOS defaults to physically accessing the drive each time a read is performed, effectively bypassing the nonoperable diskette change line. Good work!