

SunPCi™ 1.2.1 Release Notes



THE NETWORK IS THE COMPUTER™

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Part No. 806-4785-10
March 2000, Revision 01

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SunPCi 1.2.1 Release Notes

The SunPCi™ 1.2.1 software is an upgrade to SunPCi version 1.2. It runs on the Solaris™ 2.6, Solaris 7, and Solaris 8 operating environments, and it supports Windows NT 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or 6a, and Windows 98 SE (Second Edition).

This version of SunPCi software does not support Windows 95. You need to upgrade to Windows 98 SE, or run a previous version of SunPCi with Windows 95.

Note – For Windows NT installations, Service Pack 5 brings the best results. Do not install Service Pack 6a unless you need to fix a specific problem in Windows NT.

This document discusses the following topics:

- What Is In This Package?
- Before You Install SunPCi 1.2.1
- How Do I Install the SunPCi Package?
- How Do I Update the BIOS?
- Using Large Emulated Disk Drives
- What Are the Known Problems With This Release?

You install the SunPCi 1.2.1 software in two steps:

1. Download the SunPCi 1.2.1 package or use your SunPCi 1.2.1 CD. If you are downloading the software from the Web, the complete SunPCi 1.2.1 package is stored at <http://www.sun.com/desktop/products/sunpci>.
2. If you have a previous version of the SunPCi software installed, remove the existing package and install a complete new package. If you are installing the SunPCi software for the first time, simply install the package.

Note – The SunPCi software is no longer distributed in patch form.

What Is In This Package?

The SunPCi 1.2.1 installation package contains the following files:

- SunPCi 1.2.1 software package
- *SunPCi 1.2.1 Release Notes* (this document)

The SunPCi documentation files, as well as the SunPCi 1.2.1 full installation package, are located at <http://www.sun.com/desktop/products/sunpci>.

Uncompressing the SunPCi Software Files

Note – If you are installing the SunPCi 1.2.1 software from a CD, skip this section and proceed to “Before You Install SunPCi 1.2.1” on page 3. The instructions in this section only apply to software downloaded from the SunPCi Web site.

The SunPCi 1.2.1 files that you download from the SunPCi Web site come in a compressed format. After you download the files to a directory on your Solaris system (for example, `$HOME/temp`), perform the following steps to uncompress the files:

1. **At the system prompt, use the `cd` command to go to the directory where you placed the downloaded files. For example:**

```
% cd /home/joeuser/temp
```

2. **Type the following command to uncompress all of the compressed files in the directory:**

```
% uncompress *Z
```

This uncompresses the PostScript™ and `.pdf` files for the manuals and the `.tar` file that contains the SunPCi 1.2.1 binaries.

3. **To extract the `.tar` file, type the following command:**

```
% tar xvf *.tar
```

This command extracts all of the SunPCi 1.2.1 files into a subdirectory called `SUNWspci` within the current directory (for example, `/home/joeuser/temp/SUNWspci`). This is the source directory path you use when you install the SunPCi 1.2.1 package, as described later in this document.

Before You Install SunPCi 1.2.1

Note – If you are installing SunPCi software for the first time, skip this section. If you are upgrading from a previous version of SunPCi and have emulated disk files you intend to use, you need to perform the procedure described in this section.

The SunPCi software, versions 1.2 and earlier, created a partition entry which was incorrect. This led to extra free space on the disk as seen by Windows NT Disk Administrator, `fdisk` and other partition utilities.

This partition entry problem was fixed in SunPCi 1.2.1, but you should be aware of a potential side effect when using older emulated disks. The software will reduce the number of cylinders on a disk image by 1, causing Scandisk to return an error stating that it cannot read the last cluster from the disk. Scandisk will fix the error, but if the last cluster in the disk contains any data, that data could potentially be lost.

Before you install SunPCi 1.2.1, you should defragment your existing emulated disk files (created with SunPCi 1.2 or earlier) using your favorite disk defragmentation tool (such as Windows Disk Defragmenter). Defragmenting the emulated disk file will read and rewrite the data from the outer cylinders, guaranteeing that no data will be lost when Scandisk fixes the error.

To run Windows Disk Defragmenter, follow the procedure that corresponds to your operating system.

Windows 98

- 1. Click on the Start button.**

The pop-up menu is displayed.

- 2. Choose Programs.**

A drop-down menu is displayed.

3. Choose Accessories, then System Tools, and then Disk Defragmenter.

Follow the instructions on the screens to defragment your emulated disk files.

Windows NT

1. On the Windows NT desktop, double-click on My Computer.

The My Computer window is displayed.

2. Click the right mouse button on your emulated drive (C: or D:).

A pop-up menu is displayed.

3. Select Properties, then Tools, then Disk Defragmenter.

Follow the instructions on the screens to defragment your emulated disk files.

Note – If possible, you should create new emulated disks for use with this version and subsequent versions of SunPCi. For more information on using older emulated disks with this version of the software, refer to “Using Older Emulated Drives With SunPCi 1.2.1” on page 10.

How Do I Install the SunPCi Package?

This section describes how to install the full package of the SunPCi 1.2.1 software. This version does not contain an upgrade patch for previous versions of SunPCi.

If you are upgrading from a previously installed version of the SunPCi software, you need to remove the previous version and install the full SunPCi 1.2 package. To remove the old package and install the new package, follow the procedures in this section.

If you are installing SunPCi software for the first time, skip the following section and proceed to “Installing the SunPCi 1.2.1 Package” on page 5.

Removing the Previous SunPCi Package

Note – You only need to perform this procedure if you have a previously installed version of SunPCi (1.2 or earlier).

The `pkgrm` program removes the old SunPCi program files. To run `pkgrm`, perform the following procedure.

1. Become superuser on your system.

Enter the following command:

```
% su
```

Enter the root password. The superuser prompt (for example, #) appears. If you do not know the password, see your system administrator.

2. Enter the following command:

```
# /usr/sbin/pkgrm SUNWspci
```

You are prompted to confirm the removal process.

3. Enter `y` to continue with the removal, and then type `y` again to confirm.

The SunPC package is removed from your system. You are notified when the removal is complete. The system responds with the following message:

```
Removal of <SUNWspci> was successful.
```

You can now proceed to the next section.

Installing the SunPCi 1.2.1 Package

Follow this procedure if you are installing SunPCi software for the first time, or if you have removed the previous version of the software in the previous section. If you do not already have the SunPCi card installed in your system, refer to the *SunPCi Installation Guide* for instructions on how to install the hardware.

To install the SunPCi 1.2.1 package, perform the following procedure.

- 1. Open a command (terminal) window on the Solaris desktop.**
- 2. Become superuser on the system on which you want to install the SunPCi package.**

3. Start the `pkgadd` program. Type the following command:

```
# /usr/sbin/pkgadd -d pathname
```

where *pathname* is the path to the SunPCi package; for example, `/home/joeuser/temp`.

The `pkgadd` program starts, and displays the following message:

```
The following packages are available:
1 SUNWspci SunPCi
      (sparc) 1.2.1
Select package(s) you wish to process (or 'all' to process all
packages). (default: all) [?,??,q]:
```

4. Press Return to accept the default choice (install the SunPCi package), and then press `y` to continue.

The `pkgadd` program copies the SunPCi files to the `/opt` directory on your system. The files are listed on your screen as they are copied. When all the SunPCi files have been copied, `pkgadd` displays the following message:

```
Installation of SUNWspci was successful.
The following packages are available:
1 SUNWspci SunPCi
      (sparc) 1.2.1
Select package(s) you wish to process (or 'all' to process all
packages). (default: all) [?,??,q]:
```

5. Enter `q` to exit the `pkgadd` program.

Note – If the `pkgadd` program issues a `BIOS Mismatch` message, you will need to flash (update) the BIOS on your SunPCi card. Refer to the following section for information on how to use the `sunpciflash` utility.

6. Type the `exit` command to end your superuser session.

You are returned to your normal user session.

How Do I Update the BIOS?

The SunPCi software contains a utility for updating (also called *flashing*) the BIOS on your SunPCi card. This utility is located at `/opt/SUNWspci/bin` and is called `sunpciflash`.

Note – Your BIOS version should be .057 in order to run SunPCi 1.2.1 software.

Make sure you exit the SunPCi software before running the `sunpciflash` utility. You run `sunpciflash` at the UNIX superuser prompt.

To update your BIOS, perform the following steps:

1. **Become superuser on your workstation, if you are not already logged in as superuser.**
2. **Type the following command:**

```
# cd /opt/SUNWspci/bin
```

This places you in the directory where `sunpciflash` is located.

3. **Type this command to update (flash) your BIOS:**

```
# ./sunpciflash -f /opt/SUNWspci/bios/sunpci.bin
```

If you want to save a copy of your old BIOS for any reason, you can include the `-s` switch and the file name to which you want to save your old BIOS. For example, to update your BIOS and save the old file to `/home/joeuser/oldbios`, you would type the following command on one line:

```
# ./sunpciflash -f /opt/SUNWspci/bios/sunpci.bin -s /home/joeuser/oldbios
```

The system replies by showing the following messages:

```
Flashing /opt/SUNWspci/bios/sunpci.bin, Version 0.057 (Current
Version 0.054)
BIOS flashed to version 0.057
```

Using Large Emulated Disk Drives

A SunPCi emulated disk drive (C: or D:) is actually a file that resides in your workstation's filesystem. Always make sure that you have enough space available in a filesystem before you try to create an emulated disk drive. If you do not have enough space in your filesystem, SunPCi will not create the drive. You will need to save the emulated disk to a different filesystem or delete files on your current filesystem to free enough space.

Comparing Sparsely Populated Emulated Drives to Fully Populated Drives

In versions of SunPCi earlier than 1.2.1, the software allowed you to create an emulated disk drive file that could “grow” to its specified size in the filesystem. For example, if you created a 2 Gbyte drive and installed Windows 98 on it, the drive's specified file size would be 2 Gbytes, but its actual size in the filesystem would typically be around 260 Mbytes. As you install Windows programs and add data files, the size of your emulated drive in the filesystem will increase until it reaches the maximum size of 2 Gbytes. These types of emulated drives are called *sparsely populated* drives. (Although this term is new, all emulated drives created with earlier versions of SunPCi were sparsely populated drives.)

Note – The *SunPCi User's Guide* describes how to use sparsely populated drives. The information in these Release Notes supersedes that in the *User's Guide*. You may still create and use sparsely populated drives in SunPCi 1.2.1, but their use is not recommended.

To create a sparsely populated drive, type `setenv DONT_POPULATE_DISKS` in the command window from which you plan to launch SunPCi, and then press Return. You can tell when the disk you create is sparsely populated because it is created instantly, and the progress bar does not appear in the SunPCi window.

Sparsely populated drives can cause problems. For example, if an emulated disk needs to “grow”, but there is insufficient free disk space on the Solaris filesystem, then your version of Windows could behave in erratic and unpredictable ways. Some of these erratic behaviors include fatal Windows errors, application failures, and so on.



Caution – If you are running SunPCi with a sparsely populated drive when the filesystem becomes full, writing data to the drive can corrupt your emulated drive file. If you cannot repair the emulated disk file using Scandisk, you may have to delete the disk and create a new emulated disk drive, and then reinstall Windows and all of your applications and data.

For example, if you have a 2 Gbyte drive on a filesystem that does not have the available space and you start SunPCi 1.2.1, SunPCi checks the available space and returns the following warning (where */path* is the path to the emulated disk drive and *xxx* and *yyy* are numbers in Kbytes):

```
SunPCi: Disk space is low on the filesystem containing /path.  
Kbytes required: xxx Kbytes available: yyy  
You may run out of space if you copy data on to this emulated drive.
```

Disk space size checking occurs only when you start the SunPCi application. If the filesystem containing your emulated drive is out of space when the application starts, SunPCi will not use the larger emulated disk drive. You can either create a new, smaller emulated drive on the current filesystem, or exit SunPCi without corrupting your existing emulated drive. This allows you to delete any extraneous files in your filesystem to free disk space, or to move your emulated drive to another filesystem with more available space and then reattach it to SunPCi.

If the Solaris filesystem runs out of space after you start SunPCi, you may see error messages and erratic behavior in Windows, as well as error messages in the Solaris console window from which you started SunPCi. In addition, your version of Windows may stop running entirely and show a “blue screen” for a fatal Windows error.

If a fatal Windows error occurs while data is being written to or read from your disk, that data may be corrupted. The fatal error may also corrupt the disk.

Note – Fatal errors in Windows can cause data corruption during any read/write operation or on any disk drive, whether the drive is physical or emulated. This behavior is peculiar to Windows, not to Solaris.

In this version of SunPCi (1.2.1), when you create a 2 Gbyte emulated drive, the emulated drive’s actual size in the Solaris filesystem is 2 Gbytes. These types of emulated drives are referred to as *fully populated drives*. Fully populated drives take up more space on the filesystem when they are created, but they are not affected by the available space in the host filesystem. If there is enough room available, the emulated disk is created. If there is not enough room available, the emulated disk is not created.

Creating Large Emulated Disks

SunPCi 1.2.1 allows you to create emulated disks of up to 8 Gbytes in size. Note that you must have 8 Gbytes of space available on your Solaris filesystem in order to create the disk. Refer to the following two sections and to “Filesystem Limitations” on page 11 for more information on partitioning an emulated drive file and installing Windows 98 and Windows NT on large drives.

Creating Disk Partitions

SunPCi 1.2.1 software supports disk partitions on emulated disk files. This is a new feature for this version; previous versions of SunPCi did not support partitioning.

To partition an emulated disk, use your favorite disk utility after you install Windows 98 or Windows NT. Windows NT Disk Administrator and Partition Magic by PowerQuest Corporation have all been tested with SunPCi and are recommended disk utilities. `fdisk` has also been tested, but is not recommended, as it is difficult to use and prone to user error.

Creating Bootable Partitions

A *bootable partition* is a disk partition on which you have installed an operating system (such as Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 98 SE). Each version of Windows has its own requirements for bootable partitions. The *Partition Magic 5.0 User Guide* contains detailed information on the requirements of each operating system. If you are using Partition Magic for your disk utility, consult the User Guide and the Help function in the application for more information on bootable partitions.

Using Older Emulated Drives With SunPCi 1.2.1

You may use emulated drives that you created with earlier versions of SunPCi with SunPCi 1.2.1, but these drives have certain limitations.



Caution – *Do not* resize or partition an older drive file or try to resize a partition, or SunPCi 1.2.1 will return a `Cannot attach drive` error message and you will not be able to use the emulated disk.

To determine whether you can use an emulated drive file with SunPCi 1.2.1, perform the following steps. For example, assume you have two emulated drive files in your home filesystem. `C.old` was created with an earlier version of SunPCi, and `C.new` was created with SunPCi 1.2.1.

- **At the Solaris prompt, type the following command, substituting the name of the emulated disk file for *name*:**

```
% file name
```

The system returns a message indicating whether the file can be partitioned.

For example, to find out whether you can use `C.old` with SunPCi 1.2.1, you would type `file C.old` at the prompt.

For `C.old`, the system returns the following message:

```
data
```

For `C.new`, the system returns this message:

```
SunPCi disk partitionable
```

Using New Emulated Drives With Older Versions of SunPCi

Emulated drives that you create in SunPCi 1.2.1 do not work with earlier versions of the SunPCi software. If you try to attach the emulated drive, the software will not recognize your emulated drive as a valid disk image and will not attach it.

Filesystem Limitations

DOS cannot recognize emulated drive sizes larger than 2 Gbytes, even though SunPCi 1.2.1 allows you to create drives as large as 8 Gbytes. This is a problem inherent in DOS; you also see it when first installing Windows 98 or Windows NT. For this reason, if you create an emulated drive that is greater than 2 Gbytes in size, you will need to create partitions on the disk.

To partition the emulated drive, use your favorite disk utility. Refer to “Creating Disk Partitions” on page 10 for more information.

If you plan to install multiple versions of Windows to partitions on your emulated drive, you need to be aware of the limitations of each version you are installing. For example, if you are installing Windows NT and Windows 98, install Windows NT first on a partition that is 2 Gbytes or less. Next, install Windows 98 in a partition between 2 Gbytes and 8 Gbytes.

However, the most flexible way to use multiple versions of Windows with SunPCi is to install each operating system on a separate emulated drive file. Whenever you want to change operating systems, use the Attach a Hard Drive command in the Options menu to change emulated drives.

Note – In order to use the multiple versions of Windows installed to separate partitions, you will need to have a partition boot utility installed. Boot Magic, which is packaged with Partition Magic, has been tested on SunPCi.

For more information on partitions, bootable partitions, and filesystem limitations, refer to the *Partition Magic 5.0 User Guide* and Help function.

Troubleshooting Emulated Disk Problems

The following table describes some common questions about large emulated disks and the answers to those questions.

TABLE 1 Questions About Emulated Disks

Problem Description	Reason	Solution
How do I tell if my emulated drive file is capable of being partitioned?	Whether you can partition your emulated drive depends on when it was created (that is, with which version of the SunPCi software).	Refer to “Using Older Emulated Drives With SunPCi 1.2.1” on page 10. Use the <code>file</code> command to find out if your disk can be partitioned.
What happens if I resize or partition an old emulated drive file?	SunPCi will not recognize that drive file as a valid disk. When you start the SunPCi software, it returns a Cannot attach hard drive error message.	Refer to “Using Older Emulated Drives With SunPCi 1.2.1” on page 10. You will have to create a new emulated drive.
What happens if I use a new emulated disk file with a version of SunPCi that is earlier than 1.2.1?	SunPCi will not recognize that drive file as a valid disk. When you start the SunPCi software, it returns a Cannot attach hard drive error message.	Refer to “Using New Emulated Drives With Older Versions of SunPCi” on page 11. You will have to create a new emulated drive.

TABLE 1 Questions About Emulated Disks

Problem Description	Reason	Solution
I just created a new 8 Gbyte emulated disk, but I can only see 2 Gbytes. Why?	DOS can only recognize file sizes of up to 2 Gbytes.	Refer to “Filesystem Limitations” on page 11. You will need to partition your emulated disk. The remaining 6 Gbytes in your emulated disk file is available to create additional partitions.
I just created a new 8 Gbyte emulated disk and installed Windows. Now my OS partition won’t boot. Why?	When you create the new emulated disk file, SunPCi automatically creates a 2 Gbyte partition, using the first 2 Gbytes of the new disk. If you installed Windows to the other partition (the remaining 6 Gbyte portion), DOS will not recognize it, and SunPCi will not boot from that partition.	You will need to create a new 2 Gbyte partition for your version of Windows. Refer to “Filesystem Limitations” on page 11.
Why are my new emulated disk files so much bigger than my old ones?	New emulated disk files are fully populated disks, which means that their actual file size on your workstation’s filesystem is the same as the size you specified when you created the disk. Older emulated disk files are not fully populated, so they “grow” as you add programs and data files.	Refer to “Comparing Sparsely Populated Emulated Drives to Fully Populated Drives” on page 8.
I created a partition and installed Windows NT on it. Why won’t it boot?	If the partition you created is located at greater than 4 Gbytes after the start of your emulated disk, that partition will not boot. Refer to “Filesystem Limitations” on page 11.	You must install Windows NT on the first partition on your emulated drive.
Is there a limit to the number of partitions on a single emulated drive?	No, there is no limit to the number of drives, but there are other limitations.	If you want to create multiple partitions on an emulated drive, you need to use Partition Magic. Remember that Windows and DOS only recognize the 26 drive letters, and that some are already mapped by default (such as F:). Refer to the <i>Partition Magic 5.0 User’s Guide</i> for more information.

What Are the Known Problems With This Release?

This section describes known problems with this release of SunPCi 1.2.1 software. The section includes the following topics:

- Stale Links
- Creating Two Partitions on the C: Drive Disables the `spccheck` Utility
- Inserting an Office Document as a Graphic in Microsoft Office 2000 Causes a Drive Not Found Error
- SunPCi Exits If You Create a New C: Drive or the `sunpci.ini` File Has No Entries

Stale Links

If you have stale links to files in your workstation's filesystem (such as symbolic links to files or directories that you have deleted or moved), be sure to update or remove them. Otherwise, browsing in the filesystem can cause Windows to hang.

Creating Two Partitions on the C: Drive Disables the `spccheck` Utility

This problem happens on workstations with the following configuration:

- emulated drives C: and D:
- a CD-ROM drive
- Windows 98 installed on SunPCi
- a total of four mapped disks, whether physical or virtual

With Windows 98, drive F: is mapped by default to `/opt/SUNWspci` (the directory on your workstation where the SunPCi package resides). If you create two partitions on your C: drive, the mapped drive F: is automatically moved to drive G: when you reboot SunPCi. After that happens, Windows becomes unable to run the SunPCi version check utility `spccheck`. An error message dialog box is displayed.

This is not a serious error; simply ignore it and click on the dialog box to dismiss the error message. Note that SunPCi will not be able to inform you when there are new updates for your drivers.

Inserting an Office Document as a Graphic in Microsoft Office 2000 Causes a Drive Not Found Error

If you are using Microsoft Office 2000 and you insert an Office document as a graphic into another Office document (for example, inserting a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet into a Microsoft PowerPoint slide), you may see a Drive Not Found or File Not Found error. This does not happen with earlier versions of Microsoft Office.

If you want to use an Office document as a graphic in another Office 2000 document, convert the document (for example, the spreadsheet) to a graphic (.jpg) or Microsoft Word (.doc) file before inserting it.

SunPCi Exits If You Create a New C: Drive or the sunpci.ini File Has No Entries

If you modify your sunpci.ini file so that it does not identify a specific C: drive file, or if you are running SunPCi for the first time after a new installation, SunPCi asks you to create a new C: drive file. When you create the C: drive, the SunPCi software may exit.

If this happens, simply restart the SunPCi software. Before it exited, SunPCi created the emulated drive file for you. When you restart, the software will locate the C: drive and proceed.

For more information on the sunpci.ini file, refer to the *SunPCi User's Guide*.

