

general-purpose DOS 5.0. But when we contacted Microsoft Australia, we were told version 5.0a was in fact the normal DOS version which had been selling for 12 months — and which had fixed some “small minor irritations” including the problem with CHKDSK. Microsoft is renowned for this practice. I know advertising bug fixes is like admitting you’re wrong, but really Microsoft should be big enough now to tell users when a ‘fix’ is available. So if you have had trouble with CHKDSK, we suggest you contact Microsoft. — Glenn Rees

CHKDSK bug

When in Australia I always get a copy of your excellent magazine.

Regarding ‘Hard disk horrors’ on page 8 of the January ‘93 issue, the problem sounds like DOS 5.0 to me. Running CHKDSK can cause a bug to overwrite the root directories of some hard disks. Most sufferers blame a virus!

Microsoft has released MS-DOS Version 5.0a with the fix, but it has not telling the public.

Australians should be advised of this danger.

**Adrian Pullar
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Mr Pullar is indeed correct. We at PC User have heard of problems occurring when CHKDSK has been used on some hard disks. But no-one had heard of an MS-DOS 5.0a. A check through our electronic clippings library found only one reference to 5.0a — in December 1991 Microsoft released “ROM version” of DOS 5.0, so that DOS could be built into the ROM chips of OEM portables. Oh, and the report also quoted a Microsoft spokesperson saying 5.0a contained “at least one” bug fix, which would also be incorporated in the

