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DOS Compatibility Card: Use VLM.EXE With NetWare (9/96)

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TOPIC -----

I am trying to connect to a Novell NetWare 3.12 server using a DOS Compatibility Card. However, when I use NETX 3.32 with ETHERNET_802.3 from MS-DOS, I get the error message "Can't connect to a server", and then the application quits.

DISCUSSION -----

Apple has tested NETX.EXE and it seems to function properly, however both Apple and Novell recommend upgrading the workstations to VLM.EXE because of its versatility and smaller memory footprint. Also Novell no longer supports NETX.EXE, so you should use VLM.EXE.

Following is a list of version numbers of the various components Apple Computer tested:

Begin_Table

MACODI.COM	v0.23
LSL.COM	v2.01 and v2.14
IPXODI.COM	v2.11 and v3.01
NETX.EXE	v3.32
VLM.EXE	v1.20
NETX.VLM	v4.20

End_Table

NETX.EXE or NETX.VLM is the DOS requester shell. A configuration error is the likely cause of the error. Typically, "Can't find a server" error messages are almost always related to frame type settings in the link driver section of the NET.CFG file. Here is an sample NET.CFG file to compare with what you are using.

Begin_Table

Note:

In the NET.CFG tabs are important.

SAMPLE NET.CFG

```
Link Driver MACODI
  Protocol IPX 0 ETHERNET_802.3
  FRAME ETHERNET_802.3
```

```
Netware DOS Requester
  FIRST NETWORK DRIVE = F
```

```
Link Support
  Buffers 8 1500
  MemPool 4096
```

End_Table

Notice that tabs were used to indent.

Connecting a DOS/Windows computer into the same drop and having them operate correctly only indicates that the hardware is functioning correctly. The link driver section has to explicitly name the driver -- in this case MACODI. If you copied a NET.CFG file from another computer, it will not work. Novell Netware 3.x servers default to Ethernet 802.3, while 4.x servers default to 802.2.

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