PC Compatibility Card: Limited RS-232 Protocol Support (11/96)

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TOPIC ---

I have a MS-DOS program that uses serial communications. It works properly on my
desktop Pentium PC Compatible, however it does not work on the Apple PC
Compatibility Card installed in my Power Macintosh 7200 computer. The software
developer states the problem is related to the way the Macintosh supports the
RS-232 protocol. Is there a difference between RS-232 protocol in the Pentium PC
and the PC Compatibility Card in my Macintosh?

DISCUSSION --

Macintosh computers implement the RS-422 protocol, so not all RS-232 signals are
available. These RS-232 signals are not available: Carrier Detect (CD), Data Set
Ready (DSR), Request to Send (RTS), and Ring Indicator (RI). If your application
or serial device requires these signals, it will not work.

Neither the PC Compatibility Card or the DOS Compatibility Card support Carrier
Detect (CD). You must configure your communications applications so they do not
use CD. Most communications applications can be set to respond to the CARRIER
string sent back by most modems.

A workaround for RTS and DSR (required for hardware handshaking flow control) is
for you to configure your software to use XON/XOFF for flow control. If your
software does not allow for XON/XOFF, then the software will not run on the PC
Compatibility Card, or the DOS Compatibility Card.

In Windows 3.x, flow control is set in individual applications. Refer to
application documentation on how to configure these programs.

The Windows 95 Modem control panel has an option to set flow control which most
Windows applications will follow. To change the flow control follow these
steps:

Step 1

Switch to the PC environment

Step 2

Open the Modem control panel.

Step 3

Select your modem, click on the General tab, and then click on the Properties
button.

Step 4

Click on the Connection tab and then click on the Advanced button.

Step 5

Click Flow Control and make sure Software (XON/XOFF) is selected. Make sure
Hardware (RTS/CTS) is deselected.

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