ARA: Turn On AppleTalk in Chooser After Installing ARA

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TOPIC ---

Upon initial installation of AppleTalk Remote Access (ARA), AppleTalk is
turned off in the Chooser. When new users select ARA, they get a
message saying that ARA wasn't correctly installed or is corrupted and they
should re-install. Repeated installation efforts give the same results.
The dialog is persistent whether it's a brand new installation or an
existing (and previously working ARA) setup.

The real problem is that AppleTalk is turned off, and you must turn on
AppleTalk in the Chooser for ARA to work at all.

Does Apple plan to change the dialog box to instruct users to turn
AppleTalk on?

DISCUSSION --

This problem will be fixed in the next release of AppleTalk Remote Access.
The error dialog will say something about going into the Chooser and
turning on AppleTalk.

Note: You can also use the Always AppleTalk software which is part of the
       PowerBook File Assistant collection of software. This allows a
       System 7.1 user to switch between AppleTalk being active and
       inactive without restarting the computer.

Cause of Incorrect Messages in Several Utilities

The problem is that the 7.0 Tune Up doesn't load enough of AppleTalk to let
anyone know that AppleTalk is turned off. As a result, ARA and several
other network utilities are unable to function, and display a false
error message.

There is a way to tell whether AppleTalk can be turned on. The revised
meaning of the Gestalt 'atkv' selector is that if the selector is present,
it returns the "available" version of AppleTalk. If the selector isn't
present, then AppleTalk isn't available.

Note that this differs from the 'atlk' selector, which returns zero if

AppleTalk is currently off, and the AppleTalk version if AppleTalk is
currently on. But this only tells you the current state; it doesn't
tell you if AppleTalk COULD be turned on in the Chooser without restarting.

AppleTalk Remote Access calls gestalt with the 'atkv' selector to make sure
that the correct AppleTalk is installed. But, there is no 'atkv' selector
because Tune Up prevented the AppleTalk boot code (which installs the
selector) from running. ARA then complains that your software is
incorrectly installed if the selector is not present. At the time ARA was
released, this was the correct behavior. Since Tune Up has come along, the
rules have changed. Now the lack of an 'atkv' selector means that
AppleTalk can't be turned on without restarting.

Another aspect of the problem is that when the LAP manager loads, it checks
PRAM to see if AppleTalk has been configured. If these bits in PRAM have
never been configured or if PRAM has been "zapped," the LAP manager would
believe that AppleTalk was turned off. If PRAM is zapped, then the
AppleTalk status setting may be left in an indeterminate state. There was
a change, beginning with AppleTalk 57 on how the setting in PRAM is
interpreted:

        AppleTalk Version   <57   >=57

        PRAM setting ON   ON   ON
        PRAM setting indeterminate   ON   OFF
        PRAM setting OFF   OFF   OFF

Therefore if you ever zapped PRAM, the AppleTalk status setting may have
been left in an indeterminate state. AppleTalk Remote Access updates
AppleTalk to version 57.0.1, and displays the "improperly installed"
message because it determines that AppleTalk is turned off.

(PowerBook users don't know any of this. Their computers come with Tune Up
pre-installed and AppleTalk off.)

Other utilities and applications will also suffer from the problem. The
Network control panel, MacTCP, and DAL with Tune Up installed and AppleTalk
off all suffer from the same problem and the user is presented with a
similar "not installed correctly" message.

• MacTCP gives the error -43 (driver not installed).

• DAL will just not connect to any of its servers or the DAL installation
  checker will show no network adaptor (drivers) cards.

• The Apple Internet Router give the error message "The router software was
  damaged or incorrectly installed. Please re-install the router."

The Solution

AppleTalk version 57.0.4 fixes these problems for most cases.

• If PRAM is unconfigured, it no longer believes that AppleTalk is off,

instead it believes it is on.

- The Network control panel now displays a more appropriate message
  telling users that AppleTalk is turned off instead of telling them
  that their software has been incorrectly installed.

- Future revisions of AppleTalk Remote Access and Apple Internet Router
  will have more meaningful error messages.

- In System 7.1 MacTCP, LAT, and DAL will load whether AppleTalk
  has been turned on or off.

Article Change History:
30 July 1993 - Revised to add note about Always AppleTalk software.
6 January 1993 - Revised to add information about the effect of zapping PRAM
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