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LocalTalk Has Effective Electrical Isolation

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The LocalTalk system is much less sensitive to power problems than many networks.

To start with, LocalTalk uses differential signaling, which has a higher noise immunity than normal, directly-connected TTL logic networks (like Corvus, for instance). Also, LocalTalk uses transformer coupling from the network to the node. This provides additional isolation from noise on the network. The transformer specification requires that there be no significant leakage current with 1000VDC applied between the secondary winding and the core.

Because the LocalTalk network is passively coupled, any severe noise spikes would have to come through the system itself. This means any protection provided for the system itself would also be protecting the network.

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