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Apple Token Ring 4/16 NB Card: Hardware Q & A

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TOPIC -----

- 1) How do I set the transmission speed on the card?
- 2) Why would I want more memory on the card?
- 3) Can I buy my own memory chips and install them myself?
- 4) Why would I care about IBM technology?
- 5) Does the card require special cabling?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) The speed setting is software selectable. In fact, the card ships with a Token Ring Control Panel Device (CDEV) that allows you to set the speed setting, the locally-administered address, and timer settings for Response, Acknowledge, and Inactivity. All of these settings can be password protected so users can't change them inadvertently. The settings are saved in a .PREFS file.
- 2) You might need more memory depending on what applications you want to run on the card.

With the standard configuration of 512K, you can run either TokenTalk 2.4 (for connection to AppleTalk services such as AppleShare file servers or LaserWriter printers) or the SNA•ps 1.1 gateway. In this configuration, SNA•ps can support 8 or fewer 3270 sessions or 4-6 APPC sessions, depending on SNA frame size.

With 1MB of memory on the card, you can support both TokenTalk 2.4 and SNA•ps 1.1. The number of SNA•ps sessions you can support will vary depending on several factors, including the frame size you are using and the number of 3270 vs APPC sessions. As a rule of thumb, 32 3270 sessions or 16 APPC sessions with TokenTalk 2.4 should fit with 1MB of RAM.

With 2.5MB of memory on the card, you will be able to support TokenTalk 2.4 and SNA•ps 1.1 with up to 64 sessions.

- 3) Yes. The memory is socketed, and specifications for the memory chips are included in the manual.
- 4) Because the card is built with IBM technology, it's 100% compatible with IBM Token Ring cards. You can mix and match Macintosh and PS/2 computers on a Token Ring without worrying about compatibility. In addition, Token Ring products from other vendors are generally tested for compatibility with IBM Token Ring cards, so the same level of interoperability is afforded Apple's card.
- 5) No. The card has a standard DB-9 connector for attaching to IBM Type 1 cabling. In addition, media filters are available from third parties so that the card can be used to connect to IBM Type 3 (unshielded twisted pair) cabling. Because the ring interface is made by IBM, the card will operate within the same cabling guidelines as IBM's own products.

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