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LocalTalk PC Card and PC-Compatibles: Compatibility Issues

This article last reviewed: 27 March 1989

With the number of PC-compatible workstations growing, questions have arisen concerning the compatibility of these workstations with the LocalTalk PC card and AppleShare PC. This article describes the issues surrounding the card.

Bus Speed

Most PCs or compatibles have an 8 MHz bus. Some compatibles run their buses at a faster rate and have a mode to slow the bus speed. Those that do not have this slower mode find a great many cards are not compatible, because most cards are designed for compatibility with the IBM-PC 8MHz bus. The LocalTalk PC card has been tested successfully for 8-MHz compatibility. However, faster bus speeds produce reports of incompatibilities.

DMA

The LocalTalk card works with either DMA channel 1 or 3. One of these DMA channels must be present and available on the PC or compatible.

Control Signal Address Ranges

The LocalTalk card uses the address ranges \$240-\$247 or \$220-\$227. One of these ranges must be available.

Software Compatibility

AppleShare PC is compatible with most software. Some packages, while running, don't allow the DA pop application to appear. These packages are capturing either the keyboard command or holding the operating system in a state where the DA cannot appear. In these cases, the DA usually sounds a beep. The only method of using the DA is to set up connections or make configuration changes in the DA prior to running these applications.

Also, some printer utilities reroute the printer ports for spooling, buffering, or emulation. These may not work with AppleShare PC, may cause problems, or may even cause the PC to hang.

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 3741