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AppleShare PC 2.0.1: EtherLink II Problems

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TOPIC -----

I'm using AppleShare PC 2.0.1 and the 3COM EtherLink II card (AT bus card). I'm trying to use a thick Ethernet external transceiver with the card.

Essentially, the card seems to be functioning, but it does not communicate with the network. I've also noticed that the NET.CFG file generates the same code for both thin and thick Ethernet.

Since AppleShare PC is supposed to support this card out of the box, I need some help. Do you have any suggestions?

DISCUSSION -----

There are several potential causes for problems with AppleShare PC and 3COM EtherLink II cards.

The most common is attempting to use Phase 1 services (usually after upgrading from AppleShare PC 1.x to AppleShare PC 2.0.x). Since AppleShare PC 2.0.x is Phase 2 only, you can only use it with Phase 2 services unless a router with both Phase 1 and Phase 2 drivers is present.

The card model is also important. 3COM has produced at least three different PC or AT bus Ethernet cards, all with the name EtherLink II. We are familiar with models 501, 503, and 505. The model 501 is an 8-bit card, quite old, and not supported. The model 503 is the most common, and what we wrote our EtherLink II MLID for. The model 505 arrived later and is a 16-bit card (AT bus only). We do not yet support this card. The 503 driver will not work with it because the model 505 is substantially more complex and full-featured.

Another reason could be that they are trying to load 3COM-supplied drivers before loading AppleShare PC. This does not work. It prevents AppleShare PC from communicating with the network. Installing NetBIOS support will have the same effect.

Finally, the ENET3CII driver has problems when the bus speed of the PC is over 8MHz. The CPU speed can be greater, but the expansion bus speed cannot be

above 8MHz. This is rarely a problem, but could be if you shift the PC into its non-turbo mode and things work.

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