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AppleFax Modem: Explanation of Transfer Speeds

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TOPIC -----

The AppleFax Modem's specifications state that it can send at 9600bps, and slower speeds -- presumably to other similar modems' speed.

Is there any detailed information about this modem and the speed at which it transmits files under different conditions?

DISCUSSION -----

The specification you're requesting don't really exist as true benchmarks, as there are too many variables inherent in any data transmission. Most communication hardware specifications cite baud rates and bps ratings, and use that as the basis of comparison with other products.

The AppleFax Modem is an often misunderstood product. It is a Group 3-compatible facsimile device, and communicates with other AppleFax Modems at 9600bps in a modem-like fashion. It's important to note the latter point, as many users mistakenly believe that it also functions as a standard modem.

As far as fax transmission goes, the Group 3 protocols call for extensive error checking, which slows data throughput. In addition, Group 3 fax machines automatically lower their transmission rates based on the noisiness of the phone line. These two factors often make the fax modem appear to be transmitting slower than it actually is.

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