GeoPort vs Modem Port-Difference Explained (6/94)

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TOPIC ---

What is the difference between the modem port on a Macintosh and the GeoPort?

DISCUSSION --

There are several differences:

1) The standard modem port has connectors (pins) for signals in and out,
   timing, and handshaking. The GeoPort adds a ninth pin for power to an
   external device.

2) The GeoPort also takes advantage of the power of the processor (either
   the DSP processor in the Macintosh AV computers, or the PowerPC Chip
   itself) to do telephony- either data, or fax, or even voice. A modem is
   just a line interface to the telephone wire, a DSP to create the tones
   used, and software to run it. If we have a DSP on the motherboard, we
   can build an inexpensive line interface (like a GeoPod Telephone
   Adapter) and use computer software to run the modem.

   That makes it inexpensive to add a modem to a machine, and makes it easy
   to enhance the modem through software to increase performance, or
   accommodate a new standard when it becomes available. It also makes it
   more flexible and adaptable.

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