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EtherTalk Card: Problems with Macintosh IIcx/IIci

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TOPIC ---

This article discusses the EtherTalk card (Revisions J and earlier) and its
timing problem with Macintosh IIcx and IIci units.

DISCUSSION ------------------------------------

Revisions J and earlier of the EtherTalk card have a timing problem with
Macintosh IIcx and Macintosh IIci units.

Symptoms of the problem are intermittent, and include: system hangs on
boot, serious system errors, and exceedingly poor network performance.

Revisions K and later of the EtherTalk card have been modified so that
they will not exhibit this problem.

The capacitance of a six-slot NuBus was factored into the timing
mechanism of the EtherTalk card. Consequently, the capacitance level in a
three-slot NuBus is lower, thereby effecting the EtherTalk card's timing.

As additional NuBus cards are installed into a system, the capacitance
level is raised on the NuBus. As a result, the problem is less likely to
present itself.

The most likely Macintosh IIcx and Macintosh IIci candidates for having
the symptoms mentioned above are units with a single EtherTalk card
installed and no other NuBus cards in the remaining two slots. This is a
configuration that would be commonly used for routers, file servers, mail
servers, and so on.

The only current solution is to use EtherTalk card revision K or later.
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