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Macintosh LC and LC II: Expansion Card Differences

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TOPIC -----

We purchased a large number of Macintosh LC II computers and Avatar Ethernet cards. The cards aren't working. According to Avatar, they tested the card, along with their coax and Token Ring cards on a prototype Macintosh LC II, and they worked fine. The coax and Token Ring cards are working in the production LC II, but the Ethernet card seems to have a problem.

When the card is in the Macintosh LC II, it hangs when the computer restarts. When we remove the card and restart the computer, AppleTalk is off. We then replace the card, and the computer starts, but if we turn AppleTalk on and restart, it hangs again. We get a message to restart the computer to toggle AppleTalk on and off.

DISCUSSION -----

There are some basic differences between the Macintosh LC and the Macintosh LC II that developers of expansion cards need to consider. These differences are documented in the Macintosh LC II developer notes.

These are the two primary differences:

- The 68030 generates a bus error when addressing a non-existent memory, and the 68020 does nothing to detect these errors.
- The NuBus FC3 function code signal is always driven high on the Macintosh LC II. This determines whether 24- or 32-bit addressing is used.

These differences could be enough to cause some cards/drivers to have problems in the Macintosh LC II. We provided this information to our developers and encouraged them to offer software patches/ROM upgrades for any affected cards.

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