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PowerBook Infrared: Is It IrDA Compatible? (2/97)

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TOPIC -----

Does the built-in infrared technology used in the PowerBook 190, 5300, and 1400 series computers support the IrDA (Infrared Data Association) standard?

Can I use the infrared port on my PowerBook 190, 5300, 3400, or 1400 series computer to communicate with my Hewlett Packard IrDA Printer, or to a Apple MessagePad device with an infrared port?

DISCUSSION -----

PowerBook 190, 5300, and 1400

PowerBook 190, 5300, and 1400 series computers are not IrDA-compliant. Hence, these computers do not work with third-party devices which are IrDA compliant. The infrared implementation used in these PowerBook computers is designed to share information with other infrared-equipped PowerBook computers and the Farallon Air Dock (wireless LocalTalk filesharing solution). The Apple IR File Exchange transfer rate is done at LocalTalk speed (230.4kbs).

These PowerBook computers do not use the same infrared technology as some of Apple's MessagePad devices and some Hewlett Packard printers which need IrDA support to communicate. Instead they use a protocol called IRTalk.

PowerBook 3400 Series

The PowerBook 3400 series computers are IrDA compliant. They have the option to switch to the IRTalk protocol by using the Infrared Control Panel. These computers can communicate with other IrDA compliant devices such as another PowerBook 3400 series computer, the Apple eMate 300, and Apple MessagePad 2000.

For information about whether or not they can communicate with HP printers, you need to contact Hewlett Packard. For information about whether these PowerBook computers can communicate with any other IrDA compliant devices, you need to contact the manufacturer of the device.

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