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Quadra: ARA and Practical Peripherals Modem Issue (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

I'm using AppleTalk Remote Access (ARA) on a Macintosh Quadra 700 to connect to a Macintosh IIfx. Both Macintosh systems are using Practical Peripherals 9600sa modems.

When the MC68040 processor caches are enabled on the Quadra 700 and an ARA connection is initiated to the Macintosh IIfx, the modems communicate, but a connection can't be made.

ARA generates a message saying that it's communicating at 9600, but the "connected" message and the clock never appear on the screen. After a minute, the connection times out and disconnects. When the processor caches are disabled, it works fine. Two different Macintosh Quadra 700 systems have this problem.

What is the cause of this problem, and is there a workaround?

DISCUSSION -----

The problem you are experiencing is actually due to the command handling speed of the modem, and can be fixed with a new script. Macintosh Quadra systems issue CCL instructions too quickly for the Practical Peripherals 9600SA to respond. This problem may exist on other modems as well.

The solution is to insert a suitable "pause" before each write command in the CCL script. Testing on a Macintosh Quadra 700 with the "Practical Peripherals 9600SA" script indicates "pause 1" gives 275ms delay, "pause 2" gives 375ms, and so on. A "pause 1" should be sufficient for any modem. One side effect is that the entire dial/connect sequence takes approximately one second more.

Contact Practical Peripherals for an updated script or information on how to modify your current script to add this pause.

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