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Communications ToolBox: Basic Connectivity Set 1.1.1

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the Communications ToolBox, Basic Connectivity Set 1.1.1 (released on January 4, 1993), which has a new XMODEM Tool and Serial Tool.

DISCUSSION -----

The Communications ToolBox, Basic Connectivity Set 1.1.1 contains a revised XMODEM Tool with many important bug fixes, and a new Serial Tool. It's readily available to those needing it, as it is posted on AppleLink and internet.

Availability

The disk image is posted on AppleLink. Here's the path:

Software Sampler
 Apple SW Updates
 Macintosh
 Networking and Communications
 Communications ToolBox Tools

It's also available over the internet from, <ftp.apple.com>.

Users of the XMODEM tool can also contact the manufacturer of their application -- the one that provided the original XMODEM tool -- for an Update.

Officially, Apple has shipped the Communications ToolBox, Basic Connectivity Set with only one retail product -- MacTerminal 3.0 -- and through APDA.

Many third parties, for example Microsoft, Claris, Pacer, and White Pine, have distribution licenses for the software. They are bound by contract to make the software available to their customers (but not necessarily free of charge).

Installation Instructions

If you received an image file, create an install disk. Then with the Basic Connectivity Set install disk:

- On Macintosh computers running System 7, drag the Communications ToolBox tools from the Basic Connectivity Set disk into the (closed) System Folder. When a dialog box tell you the tools need to be installed in the Extensions folder, click yes.
- On Macintosh computers running System 6, locate the Communications Folder stored in the System Folder. Drag the Communications ToolBox tools from the Basic Connectivity Set disk into this folder.

Bug Fixes and Features

Here are the features of the new software on the disk.

XMODEM Tool 1.1

XMODEM Tool 1.1 has been improved over the XMODEM Tool 1.0.2 in the following ways:

- Improved reliability. The XMODEM Tool 1.1 is less susceptible to protocol violations, line-noise, and corrupted bytes.
- Performance increase of up to 400%.
- In a few cases when transferring files with XMODEM Tool 1.0.2, the tool would not wait correctly for the receiver to acknowledge the successful receipt of a block. XMODEM Tool 1.1 fixes this problem.
- In System 7, support for creating a new folder when saving a downloaded file using Straight XMODEM or XMODEM Text transfers.
- With the XMODEM Tool 1.0.2, a dialog claiming that there wasn't enough disk space to receive a file would appear when receiving with the MacBinary method, IF the actual data received wasn't MacBinary. Now when non-MacBinary data arrives, the transfer switches to Straight XMODEM.

Serial Tool 1.0.2

When using the Serial Port Arbitrator included with AppleTalk Remote Access, a Serial Tool 1.0.1 dialog box would inform the user that the selected serial port was in use, even when no other service was using the port. The only way to override the "busy port" dialog was to hold down the Option key.

The Serial Tool 1.0.2 properly allows the access to the serial port when the Serial Port Arbitrator is installed and the serial port is not in use by another service.

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