



# Tech Info Library

## AppleTalk Remote Access: Direct Serial Connection (3/95)

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TOPIC -----

Is there a way to use a direct serial connection for AppleTalk Remote Access (ARA)? I have about 50 sites with DEC terminals that connect back to a central location (leased lines with terminal servers). I'm wondering if it's possible to use the exiting lines to connect Macintosh computers at the remote sites to Shiva ARA servers at the central location using a CCL for a direct RS-232 connection.

I used a direct serial connect tool (CCL) in order to demo the ARA software in the lab. Here are the questions I need help with:

- 1) Where do I get a copy of the CCL for ARA?
- 2) Is this supported?
- 3) What's the possibility of this working in this configuration?

DISCUSSION -----

The Direct Connect script is what you need, and it also works with Apple Remote Access 2.0.x. These articles can help you locate the software update mentioned here:

- "Where To Find Apple Software Updates" -- Lists online services for free Apple software updates.
- "Obtaining Apple Product Support in the USA" -- Lists 800 numbers and online services for software updates, Apple support information, and a subset of the Apple Tech Info Library.

If you have access to AppleLink, follow this path:

Software Sampler  
  Apple SW Updates  
    Macintosh  
      Networking & Communications  
        Apple Remote Access  
          Apple Remote Access 1.0

ARA 1.0 User Scripts  
Direct Connect (1.0)

This CCL is not supported, but there is nothing to it so you should not have a problem. One thing to remember, although there are no phones involved, at least one character must be entered into the phone number field to make it work. The CCL can be edited to set the communication speed. In the lab we had it set up to 57.6 kbps, but depending on the amount of other processing the Macintosh is doing, that speed may be too fast. Some experimentation will be in order.

As long as the leased lines look like a plain serial cable on the Macintosh, this CCL should suit your needs.

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