Macintosh LC II: DCA Token Ring PDS Cards In LC III (4/93)

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TOPIC --

I'm experiencing problems trying to use LC II Token Ring cards in
Macintosh LC III computers. Several people here have already bought a
Macintosh LC III, and cannot get the DCA (formerly Avatar) LC Token Ring cards
to work in the LC III. I have stopped orders for additional LC III computers
until the issue is resolved. We are considering the purchase of more LC II
computers instead.

I was able to install the Token Ring driver on the LC III without errors.
The problem experienced was the failure to connect to the 16MB Token Ring
network after selecting the Token Ring connection in the Network Control
Panel.

DCA (formerly Avatar) Support stated that the card should work, with the
exception of a physical clearance problem with one socketed IC on the card.
Apparently the parts on the LC III main logic board are different enough from
the LC I to cause clearance problems.

DCA (formerly Avatar) is saying that Apple needs to come up with a fix. It is
not clear to me what Apple can do in this situation. One RTA in the Tech Info
Library talks about LC II cards expecting to be 16-bit bus masters. Could this
be my problem? Can you help me sort this problem out and a time frame for a
solution?

On a related topic, are there reported problems with LC cards from other
vendors and the LC III? I know the LC III has a 32-bit bus and that some
vendors are redesigning cards to take advantage of the higher performance
that a 32-bit bus brings. Which vendors' cards have been tested (Ethernet,
Token Ring, Video Capture, and so on)?

DISCUSSION ---

DCA (formerly Avatar) engineering's position: the DCA LC Token Ring card does
not fit properly in a Macintosh LC III. This is NOT Apple's problem to fix.

The problem is with a socketed component on the LC III main logic board
contacting the DCA LC Token Ring card, preventing it from properly and fully
seating in the LC III PDS slot. However in some LC III computers the DCA LC
Token Ring card will maintain connection with the PDS slot.

Also, the AvaTR 5.1 version being used by the customer is NOT System 7.1
compatible. DCA (formerly Avatar) had to make changes in the code and modify
the installer to work under System 7.1. We also learned the software update is
available free on AppleLink. Here is the path:

Third Party
  Third Party (A-G)
    Avatar
      Product Updates
        LanWay TR Installer (5.4).pkg

It supplies AppleTalk 5.8, and other recent Network code from Apple. We
suggest you get the free 5.4 AvaTR software from AppleLink, clear out the
5.1 version, and do a clean install of the 5.4 AvaTR software and give it a
try.

There have been very few problems with LC PDS cards, in LC III, from vendors
who were focused on Apple's developer seeding. The 16 bit cards work fine
in the 32 bit LC III PDS slot, the only known exception being the Applied
Engineering PDS card with an FPU on board. Applied Engineering is working
on solving the issues.

We do know that the Asante Token Ring card works fine in the Macintosh LC III,
and you can use Apple's TokenTalk driver. SNA•ps will work with the Asante
Token Ring card also, SNA•ps 3270, 5250, 3287 and Print CLIENTS, but not
Gateways.

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26 July 1993 - Company title changed from Avatar to DCA (Digital Communication
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