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AppleShare PC: What All The Beeps Signify

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Users of AppleShare PC have asked about the alarm beeps that sound at various times during the printing process.

The beeps that a customer may hear most frequently are those found within the AppleShare DA program environment. These usually signify that the application doesn't understand something -- often an illegal key stroke.

The alarms that sound during a DOS application are a single beep and two trills:

- The single beep represents end of print job, and will occur regardless of whether the print job printed correctly or not.

- The first of the trills is an alert from AppleShare to check the DA for messages that have been received from the server or some AppleTalk application; this trill will repeat until the user executes the DA.

- Another type of trill will occur when the DA application is Hot Keyed, but cannot "pop up". This is because the application is not friendly to resident applications, and a DOS busy flag is set. The flag is then tested by the DA, and a trill is sounded when the flag is set. This tells the user that the DA has acknowledged the hot key, but could not "pop up" at that time.

  The executing application keeps the stack and registers in such a way that a "pop up" application could erase necessary information.

  Many PC applications trap the keyboard input, which input is also passed to other keyboard handlers as well, such as the Hot Key. If an application does not pass off the keyboard data, no alert will sound, and the DA will just not be available. The AppleShare application will still sound within these applications when an AppleTalk alert is received by the workstation.

AppleShare will also beep and display network timeout or errors when

connecting. These most often occur when connecting to a net with many zones. Upgrading ROMS and software and reinstalling software seems to be the answer in most of these cases.

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