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Macintosh-to-AT&T 6544/IBM 3174 Controllers Connectivity

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TOPIC -----

A customer has AT&T 6544 controllers. They are using IBM PCs (with Attachmate cards) to connect to the controllers to get to the mainframes. (The customer says that the wiring is twisted-pair.)

Is there a similar card available for a Macintosh II? Do you have any other suggestions on how to connect the Macintosh to the 6544 controller?

DISCUSSION -----

The AT&T 6544 controllers are clones of the IBM 3174 controllers with AT&T-added functions for twisted-pair terminal connections and support. For all practical purposes, your customer's configuration can be approached as a connection to an IBM 3174.

This can be done through an AppleLine or other third-party product for 3174 support (like an Avatar or DCA 3270 Coax Card) and terminal emulation software (like MacTerminal and 3270 FT from Apple or other third-party products). There are a number of such products, and some are listed in Tech Info Library.

While coax connections to the 6544 controller are possible, you can also connect to the twisted-pair RJ-11 connectors. A Balun is needed at the male end of a coax connector, for converting the signal levels to that of RJ-11 wiring. The Balun is similar to that found on the AppleLine product. Baluns are listed in most data communications trade catalogs, like the Black Box Catalog.

For more details, search the Tech Info Library under "Black Box Corp".

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