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HyperCard: Phone Stack and Apple 2400 Data Modem

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TOPIC -----

I cannot make my HyperCard Phone stack dial using an Apple 2400 Data Modem. This is the same stack that came with HyperCard with a few minor modifications. In the Phone stack, the outside access code is "*06,". This command selects line six of our key phone system. The script behind any of the phone dial buttons dials, then waits 10 seconds, and dials again.

HyperCard selects line six and dials the appropriate number. I simply pick up the line on my handset in between these dials; the second dial is there just to get the modem to let go of the line once I pick up the handset.

I am using HyperCard 1.2.5 and the Phone stack is the one that came on that disk. This works fine with the Apple Personal Modem but will not work with the Apple 2400 Data Modem.

DISCUSSION -----

Make sure that the 10-second pause is in the "doDial" handler. Before "put empty", the last line of code in the handler, you should insert these lines:

```
-- wait 10 sec  
-- send return to HyperCard
```

This way the change takes place only once, and it's easier to follow the code at that point. The return causes the modem to drop the line, leaving the user in voice mode.

The problem with the modem and the Phone stack is that HyperCard opens the serial port for 3 seconds. It takes the modem (and many third-party devices) just under 2 seconds to go off hook. The dial string contains a comma creating a 1-second pause. This leaves a very small window in which to send the phone

number. Chances are the number is not completely transmitted, leaving you disconnected.

Our suggestion is to use the Serial XCMDs available from APDA to send data to the modem. This command set gives you complete control over the serial port, eliminating the need for the 10-second pause to get the modem to release. You will need to recreate the doDial handler to use the serial XCMDs.

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