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FDDI Connection For Macintosh (2/93)

Revised: 2/18/93
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 16 February 1993

TOPIC -----

Do you know of any FDDI NuBus cards for Macintosh to connect to a FDDI network?

DISCUSSION -----

To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor name as a search string.

Two vendors announced FDDI NuBus cards at MacWorld in San Francisco in January 1993. Briefly some background on each solution:

- Codenoll Technology Corporation

Products: CodeNet 9550, 9553 and 9750 NuBus FDDI for Single Attached Station (SAS), Dual Attached Station (DAS) and Shielded Twisted pair over FDDI (SDDI) network adapters for Apple Macintosh II and Quadra systems. CodeNet adapters ship with support for Apple's MacTCP, A/UX, AppleShare and other FDDITalk compatible network environments. FDDITalk Network software is shipped with the cards. According to Codenoll, support for FDDITalk is part of AppleTalk version 58.0 and all AppleTalk transactions can be supported over the 100Mbps FDDI network. Codenoll also indicated that they support TCP/IP connections using MacTCP and can send messages to the SNMP console supporting the Apple MIBs if AppleTalk version 58.0 is installed. Available Feb 1, 1993.

- Impulse Technology

Products: Spectra NB is a FDDI compatible NB card for Macintosh II and Quadra machines. Hardware comes with FDDITalk so support for all AppleTalk

protocol products in the Macintosh is ensured, including the Apple Internet Router. AppleTalk version 58.0 is required. Impulse also ships a file transfer utility called Ditto which according to the vendor, can transfer data between Macintosh computers at 1Mbps. This is due to the larger FDDI packet size of 4500 bytes and background operation combined with the higher speed network. There is also an evaluation kit available, called Spectra EK for first time buyers which includes two Spectra NB cards and a 10 meter duplex cable to connect the two cards. Available Jan 1,1993. Support for MacTCP is expected in mid 1993.

All vendors strongly recommend upgrading or accelerating the Macintosh II to a 68040 machine with either 25 or 33 Mhz speed with FPU for better performance.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:11585