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Centris 610: 3197 and 3178c Terminal Emulation (4/93)

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TOPIC -----

I need to connect my Centris 610 to a mainframe that emulates a 3197 and 3178c Terminals. What software or hardware solutions would achieve this?

DISCUSSION -----

We will separate this question into two parts:

- 1) The 3197 and 3178 emulation issue
- 2) The Centris 610 issue

1) The 3197 terminal shows up primarily on IBM midrange systems so any 5250 style emulation will do the trick. As of April, 1993, two 5250 emulation products are available: Andrew's MacMidrange products, and IDEAssociates' IDEACom Mac products. In June, 1993, Apple's SNA•ps 5250 product, which connects only to AS/400s over APPC SNA•ps gateways, will be available. If you have System 38s or 36s, be sure the midrange product you choose supports them. There may be a model of 3197 which emulates a 3270-style terminal. If that is the case, then include the 3197 in the discussion of 3270 emulations below.

The 3178c terminal is a color terminal in the 3270 family. Any Macintosh 3270 emulation will support this terminal type. The vendors are:

- a) Apple with SNA•ps 3270
- b) DCA with MacIRMA, MacMainFrame, and Netway
- c) AttachMate with EXTRA! for the Macintosh
- d) Netware for SAA for the Macintosh

All the products listed above primarily use the client-server relationship to connect Macintoshes to IBM mainframe or midrange machines. The server types cover a multitude of hardware solutions from special Twinax cards (in Macintosh), APPC gateways on Token Ring or SDLC (in Macintosh), 3270 gateways on Coax, Token Ring, or SDLC cards (in Macintosh), 3270 solutions in stand alone SPARC based hardware (Netway), and 486 PC based gateways (DCA IRMALan, AttachMate and Netware for SAA).

There are also standalone solutions which generally require the installation of a NuBus card in a NuBus slot in the Macintosh. There are coax, Token Ring, and SDLC based standalone solutions which use NuBus cards.

- 2) The Centris 610 has some special issues. The NuBus slot only allows a 7 inch long card. This eliminates ALL currently available stand alone solutions since all available Coax, Token Ring, or SDLC cards are longer than 7 inches and do not fit in the Centris 610. So you have to use the client-server or distributed session products to do all emulations. The Centris 610 has built-in LocalTalk and can accept the Apple Ethernet NB card and other vendor's Ethernet cards since they are all within the Centris 610 7 inch NuBus limitations. There are NO Token Ring cards available from any vendor which fit into the Centris 610.

Summary

The Centris 610 can only be connected to larger IBM machines via terminal emulation using gateways with emulation data streams delivered via AppleTalk. The only physical connections offered are LocalTalk and Ethernet. 3197 emulation is generally a 5250 vendor offering and 3178 emulation is a 3270 vendor offering. If the customer wants a standalone solution, another Macintosh computer should be selected (capable of accepting Coax, Token Ring, or SDLC cards).

To get more background on these solutions, refer to the Apple Network Solutions guide, 1992 edition, published by the MZ Group in San Francisco. Read from page 165 and beyond about Communication Services.

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

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