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GeoPort vs Modem Port-Difference Explained (6/94)

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TOPIC -----

What is the difference between the modem port on a Macintosh and the GeoPort?

DISCUSSION -----

There are several differences:

- 1) The standard modem port has connectors (pins) for signals in and out, timing, and handshaking. The GeoPort adds a ninth pin for power to an external device.
- 2) The GeoPort also takes advantage of the power of the processor (either the DSP processor in the Macintosh AV computers, or the PowerPC Chip itself) to do telephony- either data, or fax, or even voice. A modem is just a line interface to the telephone wire, a DSP to create the tones used, and software to run it. If we have a DSP on the motherboard, we can build an inexpensive line interface (like a GeoPod Telephone Adapter) and use computer software to run the modem.

That makes it inexpensive to add a modem to a machine, and makes it easy to enhance the modem through software to increase performance, or accommodate a new standard when it becomes available. It also makes it more flexible and adaptable.

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