Tech Info Library

Does Apple Support Enhanced IDE (7/95)

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TOPIC ---

Is computer IDE Interface used in some Macintosh computers, such as the
Macintosh 5200 series, Performa 6200 series, Macintosh 630 family, and the
Macintosh LC and Performa 580, the same as the Enhanced IDE interface? If not
what are the differences?

DISCUSSION --

IDE's basic design is limited to magnetic media and does not work for tape,
optical, or CD-ROM devices. PC vendors have addressed IDE's problems with an
Enhanced IDE specification, which supports more drive units, greater throughput,
and higher-capacity mechanisms. It also permits easier attachment of CD-ROM
drives. The Enhanced IDE Interface is also known as the ATA (AT attachment)
Interface.

Apple's implementation of the ATA interface is a subset of the ATA interface
specification, ANSI proposal X3T9.2/90-143. Revision 3.1. Current IDE capable
Macintosh systems support IDE drives that include a feature called Logic Block
Addressing (LBA). LBA is the method that drive manufacturers have adopted in
order to go beyond the 520 MB DOS-BIOS limit.

In summary, the Apple IDE Interface supports IDE and Enhanced IDE drives.
However, any IDE drive that is going to be used on Macintosh computers must
support Logical Block Addressing (LBA).

Article Change History:
17 Jul 1995 - Clarified technical information

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