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Modems, PhoneNETs and Key Switch Telephones (20Feb87)

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Security: Everyone

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When a modem is connected through a PhoneNET AppleTalk Connector to a RJ11 wall jack, the modem can electrically short the PhoneNET signal lines (yellow & black wires). This tech note describes what's going on and how to configure the modem from shorting the PhoneNET signal lines.

Many modems have a switch, jumper, or command that causes it to connect the yellow and black wires in a telephone jack. This feature is provided so that modems being used with a key switch multi-line office PBX will provide the correct signals to indicate that the modem line is in use and should not be picked-up at another phone.

The following commands, switches or jumpers will disable the modem from shorting the two wires normally used by PhoneNET connectors. Doing the opposite will cause the modem to indicate that the line is in use on multi-line key switch telephone systems.

- Hayes Smartmodem 2400: issue commands AT&J0 or AT&J
- Hayes Smartmodem 1200: set switch 7 UP
 - Avatek 1200: only uses two wires
- US Robotics Password 1200: pull up jumper J1
- US Robotics Courier 2400: set switch 7 UP
 - Apple Modem 300/1200: pull up jumper J1
 - Apple Personal Modem: (made in USA) cannot be disabled, cut the yellow and black wires in the telephone extension cable.
 - Apple Personal Modem: (made in Hong Kong) only uses two wires

If you know how to configure modems that are not on this list, please let us know. Our AppleLink address is D0119. We intend to keep this list updated.

NOTE: Apple Computer, Inc. is not responsible for the contents of this article.

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