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## Macintosh Chooser: GetZoneList Command Times Out

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TOPIC -----

We have a problem with the Chooser command GetZoneList timing out when dialing in to a WAN over 2400 baud modems. We want this command to allow enough time to find all of the zones.

Our network has 56 zones. Users dial in from all types of Macintosh and Outbound computers, and from all over the country. They dial in to Shiva devices including Telebridges, NetModems, and NetSerials. Most (90%) connections are at 2400 baud. (We chose not to use AppleTalk Remote Access, since it requires a dedicated Macintosh and System 7.) After establishing a connection, we open the Chooser and get one of two results:

- No zones appear (the GetZoneList times out before returning ANY packets),  
or
- 38 to 40 zones appear (the GetZoneList times out after the first packet).

AppleTalk Remote Access software traps the GetZoneList and freezes the zones. How can we make it work with our network?

DISCUSSION -----

The Chooser isn't well-suited to all WAN topologies. But it's actually tuned and works well for local area network environments and high bandwidth WAN links.

The Chooser isn't broken. The Shiva dial-in products push the current Chooser past its intended use, without offering an alternative. To fix this, Shiva could:

- Implement a Shiva-specific Chooser for use with their dial-in AppleTalk

products, or

- Patch the GetZoneList call in the remote Macintosh computers to function more like AppleTalk Remote Access.

AppleTalk Remote Access is a good example of how to develop a remote AppleTalk product within the present GetZoneList parameters.

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