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PC Compatibility Cards: General Questions & Answers (11/96)

Revised: 11/14/96
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 30 May 1996
Article Reviewed/Updated: 14 November 1996

TOPIC -----

The article answers the following general questions about Apple's PCI PC Compatibility Cards:

1) Previously PC/DOS Compatibility cards did not have joystickA/joystickB capabilities. Because of this, customers were not able to hook up the 'enhanced' joysticks that are becoming more common (FlightStick Pro, Wingman Extreme, etc). Do these new PC Compatibility Cards have full joystick port capabilities?

2) The APPLEVDO.INF file that comes with PC Setup 1.5 has VDIFs for Apple's current display models for Windows 95. Some customers have asked for a monitor description file for their Apple monitors on 'real' PC-compatible computers. The refresh rates for the generic SVGA VDIFs included with Win95 are not very good. Will this file be posted to Apple's Software Updates areas?

3) In Appendix D of the 7-inch PC Compatibility Card User Manual (technical specifications), it states that the card is compatible with 640 x 480 and 800 x 600 resolutions. However, Appendix C of the user manual refers to resolutions up to 1280 x 1024. Why is Appendix C different from Appendix D?

4) Some customers must provide their Ethernet addresses before being allowed to connect to their university or business network. Because of the processor chipset on the new PC Compatibility cards (Curio Prime) having two Ethernet IDs, some customers will need to provide BOTH of these ID numbers. Is there any way to find out both Ethernet IDs? Do the processor chipset's (Curio Prime) dual Ethernet IDs share the network bandwidth or do they each have a full 10 MB bandwidth?

5) How does Apple officially distinguish between the two PC Compatibility cards? I have seen them referred to as "the 7-inch card" or "the 12-inch card" as well as by "with Pentium" or "with 586". Which is correct?

6) How much and what kind of VRAM (video DRAM) come with the PC Compatibility Cards?

DISCUSSION -----

1) Question: Previously PC/DOS Compatibility cards did not have joystickA/joystickB capabilities. Because of this, customers were not able to hook up the 'enhanced' joysticks that are becoming more common (FlightStick Pro, Wingman Extreme, etc). Do these new PC Compatibility Cards have full joystick port capabilities?

Answer: The joystick port does support both A and B channel, so the enhanced joysticks should work.

2) Question: The APPLEVDO.INF file that comes with PC Setup 1.5 has VDIFs for Apple's current display models for Windows 95. Some customers have asked for a monitor description file for their Apple monitors on 'real' PC-compatible computers. The refresh rates for the generic SVGA VDIFs included with Win95 are not very good. Will this file be posted to Apple's Software Updates areas?

Answer: The APPLECDO.INF file will be posted to all of Apple's Software Updates sites.

These articles can help you locate the software update mentioned here:

- "Where To Find Apple Software Updates" - Lists online services for free Apple software updates.
- "Obtaining Apple Product Support in the USA" - Lists 800 numbers and online services for software updates, Apple support information, and a subset of the Apple Tech Info Library.

3) Question: In Appendix D of the 7-inch PC Compatibility Card User Manual (technical specifications), it states that the card is compatible with 640 x 480 and 800 x 600 resolutions. However, Appendix C of the user manual refers to resolutions up to 1280 x 1024. Why is Appendix C different from Appendix D?

Answer: Appendix D refers to SVGA modes that are supported by the 7-inch PC Compatibility card. Appendix C covers resolutions the 7-inch PC Compatibility card can support with multiple-scan monitors only.

The 12-inch PC Compatibility card can have an additional 1 MB of VRAM added to it which allows it to support the additional SVGA modes of 1024 x 768 and 1280 x 1024.

4) Question: Some customers must provide their Ethernet addresses before being allowed to connect to their university or business network. Because of the processor chipset on the new PC Compatibility cards (Curio Prime) having two Ethernet IDs, some customers will need to provide BOTH of these ID numbers. Is there any way to find out both Ethernet IDs? Do the processor chipset's (Curio

Prime) dual Ethernet IDs share the network bandwidth or do they each have a full 10 MB bandwidth?

Answer: The Ethernet addresses are sequential. The forty-eighth bit of the address is ignored at the data link error. Any utility that worked on the PC to get the Ethernet address should still work. One example is Netmanage's Chameleon. It displays the Ethernet address on the PC in its configuration window. WINIPCFG.EXE also returns the Ethernet address. This is included with Microsoft TCP/IP in Windows 95.

5) Question: How does Apple officially distinguish between the two PC Compatibility cards? I have seen them referred to as "the 7-inch card" or "the 12-inch card" as well as by "with Pentium" or "with 586". Which is correct?

Answer: The official names are:

- 7-inch PC Compatibility Card
586 processor
- 12-inch PC Compatibility Card
Pentium processor

6) Question: How much and what kind of VRAM (video DRAM) come with the PC Compatibility Cards?

Answer:

7 Inch (586 Card)

1 MB video DRAM, non-expandable

12 Inch (Pentium Card)

1 MB video DRAM (physical/logical), expandable to 2 MB(physical/logical) total using:

Two of the 5V, 256K x16, 60 ns, standard fast paged mode SOJ (standard outer J pin) package DRAM chips (40-pin).

Some sample manufacturers and their part numbers are:

Micron #MT4C16257DJ-6

NEC #UPD424260LE60R

Samsung #KM416C256BJ-6

Hyundai #HY514260BJ-60

Article Change History:

14 Nov 1996 - Added info about VRAM.

29 Jul 1996 - Reworded for clarity.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:19894