



Tech Info Library

Apple Ethernet NB Card: 16-bit Bus Path and Tasks (10/91)

Revised: 11/29/94
Security: Everyone

Apple Ethernet NB Card: 16-bit Bus Path and Tasks (10/91)

=====
Article Created: 25 October 1991
Article Reviewed/Updated: 29 November 1994

TOPIC -----

I'm a developer with two questions about the Apple Ethernet NB card.

- 1) How many data bits does the card work with internally: 8, 16 or 32?
- 2) What is the use of the 68000 processor when using EtherTalk or MacTCP?
Does any of that code run on A/ROSE and does it make the data transfer faster?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) The Apple Ethernet NB card has a 16-bit bus, and is comparable in performance to the older EtherTalk NB card.
- 2) Very few tasks are downloaded to the card (nothing on top of A/ROSE).
So the on board 68010 mostly manages the DMA, off-loading little of the cycles and work required of the Macintosh's main logic board processor.

Incidentally, the SONIC chip used in the Ethernet NB card is 32-bit capable, and when used in Quadra systems is in 32-bit mode.

Support Information Services

Copyright 1991-94, Apple Computer, Inc.

Tech Info Library Article Number:9151