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Macintosh IIsi: EtherPort Compatibility Issues

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TOPIC -----

Are there any known compatibility problems with the Kinetics/Excelan/Novell EtherPort II cards and the Macintosh IIsi?

Has this card has been tested, and, if so, could you provide the hardware and software versions, and the results of your test? If not, have any other issues surfaced?

DISCUSSION -----

This is what we learned from Novell: Any software incompatibilities would reveal problems between the driver and the operating system. The card itself would not be the cause of a software conflict.

If the driver installer disk has an old System folder, boot from the System Tools disk, then put in the EtherPort Installer disk and run the Installer as you would normally. You'll have to do some disk swapping, but it should work. Past the OS question, there should be no other software problems.

Because the Macintosh IIsi is rather new, we have not been able to verify that there are NO incompatibilities. When Shiva Corporation bought the EtherPort line of Macintosh-to-Ethernet interface boards from Novell, Inc. (in December 1990), they made a commitment to support the EtherPort and driver with all of the appropriate Macintosh computers. So, in the future, they might be able to provide more detailed information on the compatibility issues concerning the newer Macintoshes.

My guess is that Shiva is making a very safe statement saying that because the EtherPort II has not been thoroughly tested with the Macintosh IIsi or the Macintosh LC, they cannot (and neither can we) say the card will work with those computers. So, at this point customers just have to try the combination to see if it works. Probably they are also saying that if some problem is found, they will release new hardware and/or software to provide solutions.

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