

USB: Transfer Speed Compared to Other Technologies

This document compares the data transfer rates of USB and different peripheral technologies such as ADB, Serial, SCSI, and FireWire. This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.

Below is a comparison of speeds of different technologies, from slowest to fastest. Please note that these are theoretical maximum throughputs of the different technology.

Technology	Theoretical Maximum Throughput
Apple Desktop Bus (ADB)	0.01 Mbps or 10 Kbps
Serial Port	0.23 Mbps or 230 Kbps
Geoport Port	2 Mbps
USB 1.1 at low data transfer rate	1.5 Mbps
USB 1.1 at high data transfer rate	12 Mbps
FireWire 400	400 Mbps
SCSI	1-40 MB/sec
Fast SCSI	8-80 MB/sec
Ultra SCSI-3	18-160 MB/sec
USB 2.0 at high data transfer rate	480 Mbps
FireWire 800 at 800 Mbps	800 Mbps

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