Ethernet: "Could Not Switch to EtherTalk" Error

When opening the Network control panel and clicking EtherTalk, the following message appears "Could not switch to EtherTalk due to an error. Your connection will be reset to LocalTalk."

This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.

Symptom

When opening the Network control panel and clicking EtherTalk, the following message appears "Could not switch to EtherTalk due to an error. Your connection will be reset to LocalTalk."

Solution

Overview

- If this message appears immediately, it is likely to be an issue with the computer's networking software.
- If this message appears three to eight seconds later, the issue is with the Ethernet network. During this time, the computer is trying to verify the network connection.

The verification of Ethernet can fail for several reasons:

- An inactive Ethernet connection (inactive network).
- AppleTalk is not activated through the Chooser (may require resetting PRAM).
- Network cabling issues such as a loose or malfunctioning transceiver, improper hub port configuration, or a faulty Ethernet cable.
- The appropriate resources and/or drivers may not be present. Run either Network Software Installer 1.5.1 or a custom install of EtherTalk software from the System Software installer.
- The System file may be corrupt. Delete the System file only and reinstall.
- An incompatible third-party hard disk driver.

Possible Resolutions

- Try resetting PRAM first to resolve the issue.
- Disconnect and then reconnect the transceiver or network cable from the computer.
- Check if network maintenance was performed, it is possible for Ethernet connections to be disturbed in a wiring closet which could impact your connection.
- Reinstall the networking software.
- Reinstall the System Software.

Apple Ethernet CS Thin Coax Card

If you have the Apple Ethernet CS Thin Coax Card (M2708Z/A) installed in your computer's communications slot, you must use Network Software Installer (NSI) 1.5.1 or later for the latest EtherTalk drivers.

Note: Keep a copy of the latest NSI present in case you need to reinstall system software. NSI 1.5.1 or later must also be reinstalled after a clean system software installation. With Mac OS 7.5.3 or later, you do not need to install NSI 1.5.1.

This article can help you locate the software update mentioned here:

- Article 14724: "**Where To Find Apple Software Updates**" - Lists online services for free Apple software updates.

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