

LocalTalk Bridge: Network Number Conflicts

This article discusses network number conflicts with LocalTalk Bridge.

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Network number conflicts with LocalTalk Bridge occur when both the LocalTalk segment and the ethernet segment try to use the same network number at the same time. LocalTalk Bridge will detect these situations and shut itself off to avoid network conflicts.

Networks with AppleTalk routing

Network number conflicts with LocalTalk Bridge generally do not occur on networks with AppleTalk routing enabled. As the LocalTalk Bridge is activated, it looks for a network number not already in use by a router. However, a network number conflict can occur if a router is turned on after the LocalTalk Bridge has been activated. If the router uses a network number that is already in use by the LocalTalk Bridge, the LocalTalk Bridge will shut itself off to avoid the network conflict with the router.

Networks without AppleTalk routing

Network number conflicts are more likely to occur with networks that do not route AppleTalk. When the LocalTalk Bridge starts up on a network that does not route AppleTalk, it assigns itself to network number 66. If the LocalTalk Bridge discovers any device on the ethernet segment using network number 66, the LocalTalk Bridge will shut itself off to avoid the network conflict with that ethernet device.

This may occur when moving a device from the LocalTalk segment of the LocalTalk Bridge to the ethernet segment. Many AppleTalk devices will automatically try to reuse their old address. When you switch to ethernet, these devices will continue to use network number 66, thus creating the conflict. To reenable the LocalTalk Bridge, you must locate any devices on the ethernet segment that are using network number 66 and change their network number.

To determine the AppleTalk network number of a Mac OS-based computer

1. Open the AppleTalk control panel.
2. Switch to Advanced mode (via User Mode under the Edit menu).
3. The network number will appear in the AppleTalk control panel window.

To change the AppleTalk network number of a Mac OS-based computer

- Reset Parameter RAM (PRAM)

or

1. Open the AppleTalk control panel, check the 'user defined' box.
2. Change the value for the network field.
3. Save changes and close the AppleTalk control panel.
4. Reopen the AppleTalk control panel.
5. Uncheck the 'user defined' box to prevent other future AppleTalk addressing conflicts.

You may need to consult your documentation to determine the AppleTalk address of other AppleTalk-based devices.

Published Date: Feb 18, 2012