

IP Gateway: Third-party Ethernet Drivers

The IP Gateway may hang with some third-party ethernet drivers.

This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.

In at least one instance with a third-party ethernet card, the IP Gateway has been demonstrated to hang at Gateway startup if the card vendor's driver is used. Even custom removal of the third-party driver, followed by an installation of Network Software Installer 1.4.5 (the last version from Apple that officially supports third-party cards), failed to resolve reproducible hangs when the Gateway actually starts.

The solution was to clean-install the operating system (in this case, System 7.1 with Update 3.0) and install NSI 1.4.5, not the card manufacturer's driver. Apparently, this and perhaps other third-party ethernet driver installers put code resources in the System file that are not removed by custom de-installation, and these resources appear to interfere with the Gateway.

It follows that in cases where unexplained hangs of the IP Gateway occur, driver code especially should be considered if third-party ethernet hardware is involved and any kind of 'hang' symptoms are observed.

Note: The highest level Apple-supplied ethernet driver which supports many third-party ethernet cards is that found in Network Software Installer 1.4.5, which may be installed on systems up to and including System 7.5.1.

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