AsantéTalk - Frequently Asked Questions

AsantéTalk Power-Up Sequence

Q: Is there an approved power-up sequence for the AsantéTalk?

A: Yes. In general, turn on all Localtalk devices first: printers, laptops and desktop computers. Once these are all functioning, do EITHER of the following:. If the AsantéTalk will be connected to an existing Ethernet network, connect the silver Ethernet cable to a hub, bridge or router, and power up the AsantéTalk. If the AsantéTalk will be connected to an iMac, connect the yellow crossover cable to both AsantéTalk and iMac, power up the AsantéTalk, THEN power up the iMac.

Q: All my devices are on the same power strip. When I start up my iMac in the morning, the iMac won't see my printer. Why?

A: For each Localtalk device to be accessible via AsantéTalk, ALL Localtalk devices including Printer and Computer systems must be powered-up first. This will enable the AsantéTalk to see each Localtalk node.

Q: How long does it take for the AsantéTalk to power up?

A: It takes approximately 15 seconds for AsantéTalk to boot and become an active node.

Q: Why can't my Powerbook be seen on the Localtalk network when I plug it into the network in the morning?

A: During its power-up sequence, the AsantéTalk polls the Localtalk network for any available nodes. Nodes which are added after the AsantéTalk is powered on may not be seen. Recycling the AsantéTalk will resolve this problem.

Q: During the boot process of the Apple iMac when connected directly to the AsantéTalk, the GREEN LED labeled "LI" on the AsantéTalk will flash repeatedly what causes this?

A: The AsantéTalk is attempting to auto-negotiate with the iMac. AsantéTalk does not support Ethernet auto-negotiation.Always power up the AsantéTalk before booting the iMac.

Localtalk Network Topology

Q: Can I use the AsantéTalk Serial Cable on an Appletalk compatible printer?

A: No. The AsantéTalk Serial Cable connector is designed for serial printers and for connecting a Localtalk computer to the AsantéTalk. It was not designed to establish a Localtalk network, nor was it designed to communicate with a printer that supports the Appletalk protocol.

Q: What cabling should I use to connect my Appletalk printer to the AsantéTalk?

A: Localtalk connector kits are available for building a Localtalk network. One connector must be provided for each Localtalk device. If there is a single printer to be attached to an iMac, for example, two Localtalk connectors would need to be provided; one for the AsantéTalk, and one for the Appletalk printer.

Q: What is the difference between Localtalk and Appletalk?

A: Localtalk topology refers to the physical cabling used to connect the network devices. Appletalk protocol compatibility refers to the software language the devices (computers and printers) use to communicate with each other.

Q: Is Localtalk topology different from Ethernet topology?

A: Yes. Localtalk topology employs a "bus" or "daisy chain" wiring scheme. Ethernet employs a "star" wiring scheme.

Q: How is a "star" topology different from a "bus" topology?

A: A "Star" topology requires that all cable runs terminate at a central point such as a hub, bridge or router.10BaseT Ethernet is the most common Ethernet used with Appletalk. A "bus" or "daisy chain" topology (such as a Localtalk network uses) connects several devices in a row. It requires termination at the beginning and end of the "bus" for proper communication to occur.

Q: Does AsantéTalk support Localtalk connection devices that utilize a "star" topology?

A: No. While some makers of Localtalk connection devices utilize a "star" topology configuration, the AsantéTalk complies with the Localtalk "bus" topology specification.

Q: Does it matter where the AsantéTalk resides in the Localtalk network topology?

A: Yes. The AsantéTalk provides optimal performance when it resides at the beginning of the Localtalk network topology, and is properly terminated.

Q: What port do I plug the Localtalk connector into on my Localtalk Macintosh?

A: If your Macintosh has a Network Control Panel, you should select Localtalk Built-in and plug your Localtalk adapter connector into the Printer port. If your Macintosh is running Open Transport and has an Appletalk Control Panel, you can select either the Printer or Modem port. Connect the Localtalk adapter into the port that will be used for communication. (Note – This will NOT work with the iMac – it does not have a Localtalk printer port!)

Q: How many Localtalk devices can I attach to the AsantéTalk?

A: The AsantéTalk will support up to 8 additional Localtalk devices.

Ethernet Questions

Q: What do the LED's (lights) on my AsantéTalk mean?

A: There are 4 LED's on the AsantéTalk to help you with diagnostics.The solid power LED shows the unit is receiving power.The solid green LI (or Link Integrity) LED indicates that a valid connection has been made between the AsantéTalk and another Ethernet device. The RX and TX LED's blink when traffic is received from (RX) or transmitted to (TX) the Ethernet portion of the network.

Q: Why isn't there a solid green LI light on after I've plugged in my Ethernet cable?

A: There may be at least 2 reasons: 1.), you are using the wrong cable. The yellow cable must be used to attach the AsantéTalk to an Ethernet computer such as the iMac. The Silver cable must be used to attach the AsantéTalk to an existing Ethernet network. 2.), the cable may be defective or the wrong type. If possible, use the appropriate cable supplied with your AsantéTalk. If not, use a standard IEEE Ethernet Category 3 or 5 Ethernet cable.

Q: Is the Localtalk topology style different from Ethernet topology?

A: Yes. Localtalk topology employs a "bus" or "daisy chain" wiring scheme. Ethernet employs a "star" wiring scheme.

Q: How is a “star” topology different from a “bus” topology?

A: A “Star” topology requires that all cable runs terminate at a central point such as a hub, bridge or router.10BaseT Ethernet is the most common Ethernet used with Appletalk. A “bus” or “daisy chain” topology (such as a Localtalk network uses) connects several devices in a row. It requires termination at the beginning and end of the “bus” for proper communication to occur.

Q: Can I use the Yellow Ethernet Cable to Connect the AsantéTalk to a Switch, Hub, or Bridge?

A: No. The Yellow Ethernet cable that is supplied with the AsantéTalk is a crossover cable and will not work when connected to a port on a Switch, Hub, or Bridge.

Q: Can I use the Silver cable to connect my iMac to the AsantéTalk?

A: No. The Silver cable is designed to connect the AsantéTalk to a port on a Switch, Hub or Bridge. To connect the AsantéTalk to an iMac, use the Yellow cable which was provided with the AsantéTalk.

Q: What type of Ethernet Cable do I need to connect the AsantéTalk to a Switch, Hub, or Bridge?

A: An Ethernet cable that is wired as a standard IEEE 10BaseT cable is required. The cable must be a Category 3 or 5 type and not exceed an overall length of 100 Meters or 328 feet.

Q: I just connected an Apple iMac to the AsantéTalk via Ethernet. Why don't I see my Localtalk Printers or Systems?

A: After connecting the Yellow cable to the AsantéTalk and the Apple iMac the iMac must be configured for the proper connection method - to verify or configure the setting, simply open the Control Panel Device named Appletalk. For proper operation, the Connect Via selection must be set to Ethernet.

Q: When I switch to Ethernet in my Appletalk Control panel, it takes a while before it switches. Is this normal?

A: Yes. When making the Ethernet selection, the system will poll the Ethernet network and may hesitate for a few moments - this is normal. When it finishes switching, save the configuration, then go to the Chooser and select the appropriate resource icon.

Q: Is the AsantéTalk a Router?

A: No. AsantéTalk is simply a Localtalk to Ethernet Converter which allows the Apple iMac or other Macintosh systems utilizing the Ethertalk protocol on Ethernet to print and share files with Appletalk protocol compatible systems or printers on Localtalk.

Q: Will the AsantéTalk process TCP/IP?

A: No. The AsantéTalk is not a router. It will not pass IP packets.

Q: If AsantéTalk is not a Router how do I establish Zones within my Ethernet network?

A: Any Router including a Windows NT Server properly configured is capable of establishing Zones for the network. Both hardware and software Routers are available which allow EtherTalk and Localtalk traffic. Some Router manufacturers include; Cisco Systems, Ascend, and Compatible Systems. The AsantéTalk will reflect any zones created by a router. Consult your network administrator for more information.

Appletalk Protocol Compatibility

Q: What is Appletalk Protocol Compatibility?

A: Appletalk Protocol is the "language" used by devices within an Apple network. One of the features of Appletalk is that devices can be "shared" (accessed by multiple users). This protocol is not dependent upon the type of topology (physical connections) used in the network.

Q: What types of Devices does AsantéTalk support?

A: The AsantéTalk supports all Appletalk Compatible computers and printer.

Q: How can I tell if my printer is Appletalk Compatible?

A: A sure way is to contact the printer manufacturer. A quick way to tell is what kind of icon is used to access the printer. If the Apple Laserwriter icon is used to access the printer, it is an Appletalk compatible printer. Most 3rd party Appletalk printer icons will have a little cable hooking into the icon. It will also have the letters "AT" after the icon name. Another way is to click on the printer icon. If the printer name shows up on the right hand side of the Chooser window, it is an Appletalk compatible printer. If you are requested to choose either the printer or modem port, it is a serial printer and cannot be shared.

Q: Which driver should I use to access my Appletalk printer?

A: Some printers utilize Apple's Laserwriter icon. Others such as HP and Epson provide both serial drivers and Appletalk drivers for their printers. Consult your printer manufacturer for the correct drivers to use.

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