Tech Info Library

Apple Ethernet NB Card: 16-bit Bus Path and Tasks (10/91)

Article Created: 25 October 1991
Article Reviewed/Updated: 29 November 1994

TOPIC ---

I'm a developer with two questions about the Apple Ethernet NB card.

1) How many data bits does the card work with internally: 8, 16 or 32?

2) What is the use of the 68000 processor when using EtherTalk or MacTCP?
   Does any of that code run on A/ROSE and does it make the data transfer
   faster?

DISCUSSION --

1) The Apple Ethernet NB card has a 16-bit bus, and is comparable in
   performance to the older EtherTalk NB card.

2) Very few tasks are downloaded to the card (nothing on top of A/ROSE).
   So the on board 68010 mostly manages the DMA, off-loading little of the
   cycles and work required of the Macintosh's main logic board processor.

Incidentally, the SONIC chip used in the Ethernet NB card is 32-bit
capable, and when used in Quadra systems is in 32-bit mode.

Keywords: <None>

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 9151