Workgroup Server 95: Blank SCSI ID Positions (10/94)

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TOPIC ---

The SCSI address thumbwheel on the internal hard drive carriers inside the Apple
Workgroup Server 95 have two blank positions.

Is it possible to have the server/drive work properly with the address set to a
blank? What do these blank positions do?

DISCUSSION ---

The thumbwheel controls 4 bits (numbered 0 through 3). The hard drive only uses
the first 3 bits to set the SCSI ID. The thumbwheel switches used on these
drives still register a valid binary output even for the settings that are blank
(they represent 8 and 9, for the curious).

Because the SCSI ID is set by bits 0, 1, and 2 (bit 3 is ignored), the two blank
positions still represent valid (although useless and duplicate) SCSI ID's. See
chart below.

Thumbwheel settings and their corresponding bit positions:

Thumbwheel   Binary value
Setting   Bits: 3 2 1 0

6   0,1,1,0 <--- SCSI address 6
7   0,1,1,1 <--- Obvious conflict with the CPU
8   1,0,0,0 <--- First blank position
9   1,0,0,1 <--- Second blank position

As the chart shows, thumbwheel setting 8 would equal SCSI ID 0 and 9 would be ID
1. To avoid confusion it is best not to set the SCSI ID switch to a blank
value.

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