DOS Compatibility: Using Legent Prevail (8/95)

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TOPIC --

I am using Prevail, a Windows-based application, to connect to the school
district mainframe via asynchronous modem. I am using Prevail in the PC mode of
a Power Macintosh 6100 DOS Compatible system. Prevail works as a client to a
mainframe application called SAR, a school financial management system. I use
Prevail to download reports generated by SAR to the Macintosh.

Prevail connects to the mainframe and allows initial login, but once accessing
VTAM, Prevail begins to display spurious characters wrapped around the normal
text (it appears it is attempting to display control characters).

The screen then returns the cursor to the upper-left of the screen and no longer
displays any line breaks or returns -- all characters display in the same
initial position of the screen (row 1, column 1). I can see the stream of
characters appearing over the top of one another.

I tested Prevail versions 1.04.03 and 1.05 beta A and got the same behavior. I
removed all unnecessary extensions on the Macintosh side and all unnecessary
lines in the AUTOEXEC and CONFIG.SYS files and still had the problem. The same
behaviour appears whether Windows is running in Standard or Enhanced mode.

Both application versions work properly under SoftWindows, either the Power
Macintosh version or the 68040 version. Settings idential to those used with the
DOS Compatible system and the same modem and modem cable were used to test
this.

What is wrong?

DISCUSSION ---

Prevail does not function on the Power Macintosh 6100 DOS Compatible. This is
due to Prevail's method of handling an expected signal change that never occurs,
according to the developers at Legent. The signal change never occurs because
the signal is not available on the Power Macintosh 6100 DOS Compatible (RTS) due
to the Macintosh RS-422 serial port implementation.

The Legent Pravail developers are aware of this problem.

Workaround

You can try using SoftWindows, an HLLAPI connection (network connection to the mainframe to bypass the serial port limitations), or a different software package that has more robust serial port drivers.

Contact Legent for additional information on the Prevail application. The Tech Info Library article titled "Locating Vendor Information" can help you search for a particular vendor's address and phone number.

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