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Macintosh-to-Wang: Emulation VS Serial Communication

This article last reviewed: 23 August 1989

TOPIC -----

How can I connect and transfer files between a Wang VS 5000 and a Macintosh II over a modem?

DISCUSSION -----

There are several ways to connect the Macintosh computer within the Wang environment. The most common implementations rely on basic Wang terminal emulation and terminal emulation with file transfer and document conversion capabilities. Below is a complete solution, including Wang terminal emulation and asynchronous file transfer.

Basic Wang Terminal Emulation

Any Macintosh application that supports VT100 emulation -- such as inTalk or MacTerminal software -- can emulate a standard VT100 terminal on a network using the Wang VS. This allows the Macintosh computer to function as a Wang workstation by direct or modem connection to the Wang-provided asynchronous device controller (ADC) or enhanced asynchronous device controller (EADC). These controllers let remote terminals execute Wang software applications, with the following limitations:

- The standard Wang keyboard includes 32 function keys, a Help key, and a Cancel key, all of which are heavily used in Wang applications. With the Macintosh computer and VT100 emulation software, the user needs to memorize several keystrokes to signify each of these keys.
- With the described MacTerminal connection, it is not possible to transfer files between the Macintosh computer and the Wang VS.

Terminal Emulation with File Transfer and Document Interchange

The DataViz MacLink Plus/Wang VS software provides a bridge between Wang word processing and Macintosh applications, including word processing and desktop publishing applications. It also provides two-way file transfer and document translation using the standard Macintosh user interface, while allowing the

Macintosh user to access Wang Office electronic-mail services.

Macintosh documents can be converted to standard Wang word processing documents and stored on the Wang VS in a one-step process. Wang VS documents can be sent to the Macintosh computer and automatically translated to MacWrite, Microsoft Word, or WordPerfect format, allowing documents created on the Wang VS to benefit from Macintosh desktop publishing capabilities.

Data files can be transferred in both directions and then translated into a variety of formats. Wang data files can be converted and used on the Macintosh computer as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Macintosh files can be stored on the Wang VS in MacBinary format for use by other Macintosh users, and also can be stored in binary format for use by MS-DOS personal computer users -- in all, more than 45 translators are provided.

You can also read mail received via Wang Office electronic mail and copy received files and documents to the Macintosh computer. You can create and send Wang Office memos and packages containing memos, documents, and data files (even MacBinary and binary files) to Wang users, as well as other Macintosh computer and IBM PC users.

A special version of MacLink Plus/Wang VS is available for Macintosh connectivity via the Wang VS TC, TCP, or MLTC ports. The full range of file translators is available for file transfer and conversion. (Wang does not support terminal emulation capability through these ports.)

Document Conversion with Smart Kid

Smart Kid from Interpreter, Inc. is a hardware and software product that allows documentation conversion between Wang VS or Wang OIS and various word processors and personal computers. Many systems and software packages are supported, including Microsoft Word and WordPerfect on the Macintosh computer, WP and WP Plus on the Wang, WordPerfect and Mass11 on Digital's VAX, and a number of IBM PC word processors and dedicated word processors. Smart Kid permits almost 100-percent file conversion, including headers, footers, and footnotes and translates directly from Wang WP and WP Plus into Macintosh word processing formats.

Terminal Emulation for Document Transfer and Conversion

VSTerm from MacSoft and VsCom/Macintosh from M/H Group (the leading vendor for IBM PC-Wang VS connectivity software) provide Wang 2110 terminal emulation for document transfer and conversion. With VSTerm, any PC with a serial port can emulate the Wang 2100 or VT100 terminals, exchange documents and data with the Wang VS, and convert Wang VS data to popular PC formats. VsCom/Macintosh provides Wang VS 2100 terminal emulation, including quick screen response, complete support of Wang WP graphics and characters, and flexible access to Wang function keys. The program also provides file transfer and conversion between Macintosh and Wang word processing formats.

MacSoft also offers a program called Converse that provides file transfer and conversion through the Wang VS TC-IOP ports, providing a relatively simple, inexpensive solution for file transfer and conversion.

MacBLAST for Asynchronous Communication

MacBLAST communications software interfaces with BLAST for the Wang VS/OS (Revision 6.4 or later, equipped with TCP/IP boards and asynchronous ports with ADC/EADC options). MacBLAST provides high-speed, error-free file transfer and text file format-conversion for integrating the Macintosh computer with Wang computer systems. MacBLAST transfers binary data, text, or graphics.

MacBLAST and Wang VS BLAST can be used to create file transfer links or dial-up networks between Wang VS computers and any number of remote Macintosh computers or PCs. MacBLAST uses standard phone lines or X.25 networks to provide reliable, high-speed communications unaffected by line noise or propagation delay on satellite-routed calls and X.25 packet networks.

MacBLAST features include on-line help, automatic dialing, and scripting for creating unattended operations, custom menus, and seamless integration within Macintosh applications.

For more information, search under: "DataViz, Inc."; "Interpreter, Inc."; "MacSoft"; "M/H Group"; and "Communications Research Group".
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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 4415