



Tech Info Library

Macintosh LC: DECnet and NSI Versions (10/93)

Article Created: 15 October 1993

* RESTRICTED: Apple Internal and Support Providers Only *
Not For General Public Release

TOPIC -----

I have reviewed the Read Me notes for Network Software Installer (NSI) 1.4.1, the latest version on AppleLink under SW Updates and its not clear if that version will help me. NSI 1.4.1 apparently installs EtherTalk Phase 2 version 1.0.7.

I'm using Macintosh LC II computers on Ethernet with DECnet Mac from PATHWORKS. I've been advised in a DEC advisory that neither NSI 1.4, nor system 7.1 Ethernet drivers will work with their hardware, and that I should use NSI 1.3.2 or 1.3.3.

The advisory also says Macintosh LC users needing DECnet CANNOT move to system 7.1, and that all system 7.1 users need to install Ethernet from NSI 1.3.x for DECnet.

Does NSI 1.4.1 fix this issue or should I take them 'back' to NSI 1.3.x? The NSI 1.4.1 Read Me note doesn't mention a DECnet - LC issue.

DISCUSSION -----

First, a clarification: 1.0.7 is the Ethernet driver version. NSI 1.4.1 installs EtherTalk 2.5.5.

NSI 1.4.1 includes a fix to address a slowdown that occurred with EtherTalk NB cards while using DECnet. This is the old Apple Ethernet card or some third party cards that use the 3COM driver. This fix has nothing to do with the driver used by the Ethernet LC card.

There was another problem with DECnet and the LC Ethernet driver. The fix was in NSI 1.3.1 but this version is intended for the Apple Workgroup Servers, so we used to recommend NSI 1.3.2. The latest NSI 1.4.1 will work fine with all Macintosh LC models, LC, LC II, and LC III.

Just to make sure that engineering has not changed anything in later versions of the NSI, I went back and tested all versions since 1.3.1. Here are the findings for a Macintosh LC II and DECnet:

System 7.1 driver: does not work
NSI 1.3.1 driver: does work
NSI 1.3.2 driver: does work
NSI 1.3.3 driver: does work
NSI 1.4 driver: does work
NSI 1.4.1 driver: does work
Copyright 1993, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 13661