Ascend

NetWarp 128

FAQ

1. *What is the difference between a passive card and an active card?*

   The NetWarp 128 is a passive card. This means that most of the ISDN functionality is executed in the host CPU and memory. Passive designs eliminate the use of expensive and complicated devices such as microprocessors, RAM, flash memory or EPROMs. It's minimal use of components reduces the probability of hardware failure and lowers the product cost.

   The passive design approach also allows for the addition of future functionality by means of a simple driver update without concern for hardware limitations such as flash memory space. This ability to add features without adding new hardware provides superior protection against product obsolescence.

2. *What is the difference between a Comm Port Interface and a Network Interface?*

   The NetWarp card uses the Network Interface design approach. This means that data is processed directly to the ISA bus and is not limited by the serial port interface. ISDN modems that interface to the computer as a serial device are limited by two aspects of the Com Port approach. First, external modems that connect to the serial ports must pass through 16550 UART chips that are inherently limited to 115 kbps. Secondly, the Comm Port ISDN modem must perform a protocol conversion from a serial interface to an ISDN interface. These two obstacles combine to limit the actual data transfer rate of external Comm Port ISDN modems to approximately 80 Kbps. Given a clear channel, the NetWarp 128 routinely delivers 122 Kbps sustained.

3. *How easy is the NetWarp card to install?*

   It is quite likely the easiest ISDN adapter to install on the market today. Unique features such as Automatic Switch and Line Speed Detection significantly streamlines the installation process. For example, during installation the NetWarp's Plug 'n Play feature allows Windows 95 to automatically detect the adapter and prompt the user to insert the NetWarp driver diskette. Enter the ISDN phone number and SPID, and you have completed the NetWarp portion of the installation.

   The remaining installation involves configuring Microsoft's TCP/IP and Dial-up Networking parameters. If the user has the necessary information available, the process can take as little as 10 minutes.

4. *What operating systems are supported?*

   Windows 95, Windows 3.x, Windows NT 3.5x, and Windows NT 4.0.

5. *Will it work on a Macintosh?*

   No, today's version runs only on the ISA bus of a PC.

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6. *Does the product include some sort of diagnostics software?*

   Yes, the software includes a panel of simulated LEDs which indicates the working status of the ISDN connection.

7. *Is the NT-1 adapter included?*

   Yes, it is onboard the NetWarp card.

8. *Will the card interfere with other components of my computer such as the CPU fan and memory modules?*

   No, it is specifically designed as a half card to avoid such interference.

9. *Will it work in outside of North America?*

   Yes, NetWarp 128 comes in two flavors: the "U" and the "S" model. The U interface works in North America and the S interface works in Asia and Europe.

10. *Do you support compression?*

    Yes, NetWarp supports Stac and Microsoft compression.

11. *Do you support full Multilink PPP?*

    Yes, NetWarp can run at 128 Kbps across both B channels for Windows 3.x and Windows 95 at this time.

12. *What kind of performance can I expect?*

    Given a clear channel, it routinely delivers 122 kbps. Your speed depends on the bandwidth capacity of your ISP and the traffic conditions over the Internet.

13. *Is MP+ supported?*

    Not yet. It is planned for availability in the first quarter of 1997.

14. *How long is the warranty?*

    Three years.

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