

NetworkPC

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> NetworkPC		
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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

NetworkPC

1.1 poppingnetworkpc

NetworkPC can be popped either using the Exchange commodity which is a part of system from V 2.0 or by hotkey choosen during configuration.

1.2 termtest

How to test your connection using a terminal program.

First we will test, if Amiga sends something. You will need a terminal program on PC. The good ones are TERM90 (from NortonCommander's package) and Telix. It is also possible to use terminal emulator that is included in the Windows package, but it cannot work on higher speeds.

So run the terminal program and set it to use proper COM port, mode 8N1 (eight data bits, one stop bits, none parity) and speed as selected on Amiga. Then execute the mount pc: command on Amiga. You should see the NetPC TEST message on the screen (and maybe some garbage).

```
I can see the text
I can see just some garbage
I don't see anything
```

1.3 tt1

Connection works. If NetworkPC doesn't get connected, maybe your card has swapped IRQs. Try to select another one (when configuring PC part).

It is also possible, that the program badly initializes the COM port - try to use another port.

1.4 tt2

It is possible that you have selected bad speed (or some other parameter). You should see either message or nothing.

1.5 tt3

This is serious. Make sure you have set your terminal program OK. If yes, we will make another test.

Run a terminal program on Amiga (Term, NComm). You will have to quit the NetworkPC handler or reboot your computer (best). Select the same parameters as you have selected on PC. If you type something on Amiga, you should be able to see it on PC and vice versa.

```
I can see it
I cannot see what I type
```

1.6 tt31

Try to popup the NetworkPC interface and look if you can see the Connecting... message). You will have to do it soon after mounting PC: device, because it may be scrolled out of the window by the "TIMEOUT" messages.

```
I cannot popup it
It is in the messages list
In the list there are no messages
```

1.7 tt312

The message should be sent. Maybe you have selected wrong serial device or something try it with the standard serial.device. If it still doesn't work, send your computer specifications to lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz.

1.8 tt32

It seems to be serious. There is a cable or serial hardware fault. You may try to use another COM port. Solving this problem is beyond the purpose of this guide.

1.9 wonthelpyou

I am sorry, but I am afraid I cannot help you. Please try to contact author (lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz).

1.10 tous1

This amount of timeouts is normal. If you want, you can try to slow down a little bit or to decrease MaxTransfer or Timeout value. It would help.

1.11 touts2par

It seems parallel routines is not working properly on your configuration. Please send your configuration both with NetPCDEB.EXE output to author at lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz.

1.12 touts2

Which speed do you use (if you tried more with the same results, select the least one):

I'm using parallel transfer

Less than 9600 or 9600

More than 9600 but less than 115200

115200

1.13 touts21

Can you transfer some bytes or you cannot transfer anything (to test it, type list pc: and wait. If you can see a list of drives that you have on PC, choose yes. Also popup NetworkPC and look if it ever said "Connection established". If not, choose no.

Yes, I can transfer something

No, I even don't get the message (mentioned above)

1.14 touts211

There must be something that doesn't allow Amiga or PC to receive most of the packets. It can be a heavily running task with a high priority (especially on slower Amigas). What you can try to do is to decrease MaxTransfer value down to 256 and try again. If this will not help, I don't know what to do then.

1.15 touts212

The programs didn't even get connected. You have problems with getting it run. Click [here](#) to get to the right section.

1.16 touts22

You can try to slow down a little bit or to decrease MaxTransfer or Timeout value. But you should be able to transfer at these rates. Another reason may be similar to the one in this case .

I also heard that using Blizzards on 40MHz may cause problems with serial port on higher speeds. Since 40MHz is not dividable by 14MHz (the rest of computer including CIAs still runs on this speed), the card must sometimes wait to synchronize with the main board, when accessing the other chips. And these delays may cause drop-outs (overruns) of bytes.

1.17 touts23

You cannot use 115200 on all Amigas. Ordinary A500 just doesn't catch all the characters. Even A1200 may not be capable of running at this speed. I know that this speed works without timeouts on A500 with A530 (a 40MHz 68030 expansion) and 486DX.

1.18 timeouts

How many errors do you get per minute, when fully transferring (i.e., a long file)? Ranges are inclusive.

Up to two
Three or more

1.19 probrun

Welcome to the "Solving problems during running NetworkPC" section.

Please specify the problem.

I get too many timeouts
I have other problem

1.20 ps0

Run NetPCCFG.EXE and reconfigure program.

1.21 psa

It is probable that serial hardware is in use by another program. Try to bootup without startup-sequence and mount the PC. You should not get that message.

1.22 probstart

Welcome to the "Solving problems with starting NetworkPC" section.

PROBLEMS ON PC:

When I run NetworkPC, it says 'Bad config file version'

PROBLEMS ON AMIGA:

I get requester saying that program cannot open device xx unit n

GENERAL PROBLEM

Popup the NetworkPC interface and look, what does it say (after the Connecting... message).

I cannot find it in the Exchange's commodity list

Some messages, but not 'Connection established'

I got the 'Connection established' message

1.23 ps1

Which version of OS are you running?

1.3

2.0 or higher

1.24 ps11

NetworkPC cannot run on OS older than 2.0. Sorry.

1.25 ps12

It seems there is a serious problem with running Amiga handler. Please, look if the mount pc: command has returned. If you mounted it by clicking on its icon, please reset computer and try to do it this way. Then send this information together with your computer and OS specification and mountlist you use to mount PC to the author (lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz).

1.26 ps2

Well. Now it is time to get closer look at what's wrong. On the PC, there is a program called NetPCANA.EXE and also special debugging version of PC program (NetPCDEB.EXE). So read following instructions and then do what they say:

Reset both computers. Run NetPCDEB.EXE program redirected to a file, e.g., type NetPCdeb.exe >output and press ENTER. Then mount device on Amiga. When you are doing this experiment, it is not a good idea to have

PC: mounted automatically. Wait for about a minute. You can popup a NetworkPC interface and look how messages are scrolling, if they are same (or similar). This is a good way to prevent the situation that program will work when you are running it like this. (According to the Murphy's law, it's very probable :-). If program works (the PCDISK icon appears on WB), do some actions with it, list directories, display files etc. to get bigger debug log file.

After about a minute click on Abort on Amiga and press CTRL-BREAK on PC. This time may be longer, it does only matter when it is too short. You may look into the output file, you should see some ASCII characters. Now run the NetPCDEB program and pass it the output file as a first argument. You must be in the directory where the NetworkPC.CFG file is present. It means you should run it from the same directory as NetPCDEB. Example: NetPCana output. It will produce some output like:

```
C:\NetworkPC\>NetPCana output
NetworkPC debug log analyser.
Analysing...
Done, result code: 3
```

```
C:\NetworkPC\>_
```

After the "Analysing..." message program may sometimes print further details of analysed. If you understand it, it is OK. If not, doesn't matter. They are for experts (and me :-).

The program also sometimes may ask you to provide longer file, if current is not enough. In this case, please, quench its hunger. It will tell you what to do.

Remember or write down the error code. Then run Multiview (or AmigaGuide), browse through to this page and choose from following choices:

```
Program returned result code 1
Program returned result code 2
Program returned result code 3
Program returned result code 4
Program returned result code 5
Program returned result code 6
Program returned result code 7
Program returned result code 8
Program returned result code 9
Program returned result code 10
Program returned result code 11
Program returned result code 12
Program returned result code 13
```

1.27 ps201

There is nothing in the debug log file. It is strange because one of the most first things program does is printing the 's' character to the output. Are you sure the file was created OK? If you think all is OK,

contact author (lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz).

1.28 ps202

Program hangs during the start, but it should not (of course). Please contact author (lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz).

1.29 ps203

Program starts OK, but then it does nothing. It is possible that it doesn't get any interrupt, but only when you use serial port. The other possibility is that you forgot to mount PC: on Amiga or there is a cable or other hardware failure.

How to do a cable test

Folloging parahrapg applies only when you use serial port:

You may also have selected bad COM port on port or bad IRQ. Try to select other IRQ when configuring PC part. If it still doesn't work, try to run the Terminal test .

1.30 ps204

Program seems to be working. It gets packets OK and doesn't receive any timeout or packet-reply request. If you still have some problems, click [here](#) .

1.31 ps205

It seems it works, but there are some timeouts. If you think you are getting too many timeouts, click [here](#).

1.32 ps206

It seems it works, but some packets are not got OK.

Popup the NetworkPC interface and look how many "Resending packet" messages you got. If you think it is many, you can try to slow down communication speed (when using serial) or lower packet size (if it is not below 512 bytes).

1.33 ps207

It seems it works, but there are some bad packets and timeouts.

Popup the NetworkPC interface and look how many "Resending packet" and "Timeout" messages you got. If you think it is many, you can try to slow down communication speed or packet size (if it is not below 512 bytes). For special advices on timeouts see the Timeouts section .

1.34 ps208

Program gets just breaks and no other data. There may be several reasons of this situation:

a) Speed is not set right. The same speed must be set on both machines. See the Configuration section in the main NetworkPC guide.

b) On the PC, you have set bad COM port. Make sure you have set the same port as you have plugged the cable in. This often happens when you mistakenly select mouse port. Then, when you move mouse, program gets breaks. You can try it: Run NetPCDEB.EXE without redirection and do not mount PC: on Amiga side. It is best to plug off the serial cable, for sure. Then move mouse. If you still get timeouts, the PC part is using bad port or there is some hardware (or software :-) failure.

There is also possibility that your serial card has swapped IRQs. Try to select another IRQ when configuring PC part (there are just two). If it still doesn't work, use the Terminal test .

c) The serial hardware is not programmed correctly, so I got interrupts from break but not from received data. But it is not probable.

1.35 ps209

Just a few packets got OK. Try to run longer test, or try to behave as you were in this case .

1.36 ps210

PC can read just length. It is very, very strange. The only think you may try is to slow down transfer rate.

1.37 ps211

PC gets both length and data, but the packet is bad. The only think you may try is to slow down transfer rate.

1.38 ps212

I'm not quite sure what's going on, but there is suspicious number of packet-reply requests. Try to slow down transfer rate.

1.39 ps213

The debug log file is so strange. It is not running OK, but I cannot determine what's wrong. You can try to run the test again and longer. Otherwise contact author (lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz) and send him the whole debug log file.

BTW: This case should never happen, unless you play with the debug log file in a text editor...

1.40 ps3

NetworkPC is running. If there are other problems (TIMEOUTS), you can click [here](#) . It will move you to the right section.

1.41 pc1

Configuration script is not a separate program, it is a script for C= Installer. Run it installer ConfigNetworkPC. You must be in the directory where you have copied the script (during instalation).

1.42 pc2

NetworkPC's configuration script requires two external utility programs, called GetPCSpecs and SetPCSpecs. They must be in the c: directory.

1.43 probconf

Please specify problem:

I can't run configuration script
Configuration script fails with the 'GETENV: String too long message'

1.44 main

Welcome to the NetworkPC error solving guide. You will be lead through a few (or more :-)) questions about your problem(s). At the end of your journey you will be given an advice. But sometimes you may be in situation that your problem is beside limitations of this simple guide. Then you will be asked to contact me. In all situations like these there is written my e-mail address. If you do not have e-mail, you can try to reach me by snail-mail, but it is very slow (especially for debugging). My address is `lemming@k332.feld.cvut.cz`.

NOTE: If you are using parallel version and you are advised to lower transfer speed, ignore it.

I have problems getting NetworkPC to run
I have problems configuring NetworkPC
I have problems when running NetworkPC