READ ME FIRST - MACINTOSH IIci COMPATIBILITY UPDATE FOLDER
        From the Product Manager for the Macintosh IIci

Six months have passed since the introduction of the Mac IIci and in that time it has achieved success worldwide. The product has been given superlative reviews by a number of the leading trade publications and was the only CPU product chosen to receive the prestigious Byte Magazine Award of Excellence. Together, the outstanding performance provided by the 25 Mhz 03' and optional cache, the flexibility and added expandability afforded by the built-in video and the extensibility of the IIci architecture have proven to be a compelling combination for customers across all of Apple's key markets. However, despite being acknowledged as an outstanding design, concerns have been expressed regarding the compatibility of the IIci with third-party hardware and software products.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞ THE WHEELS OF PROGRESS

The Macintosh IIci represents one of the most significant steps forward in the hardware architecture of the Macintosh since the introduction of the Macintosh II. Whenever you introduce a product with as many significant architectural enhancements as the IIci, incompatibilities are inevitable. The IIci delivered
a number of firsts for the Macintosh architecture, including the following:

• Higher clockspeed
• Built-in video
• 32 bit QuickDraw in ROM
• Non-contiguous memory addressing

These are all significant internal modifications, intended to strengthen the Macintosh architecture and provide even greater flexibility for future hardware and software developments.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that the majority of the modifications third party developers are having to make to support improvements incorporated into the IIci are improvements which will also be necessary to support future CPUs and future versions of the Macintosh operating system.

The changes necessary to support non-contiguous memory and the utilization of the PMMU are changes that are going to be required to run correctly with V.M. in System 7.0. 32-bit QuickDraw will be included in all future ROMs which include color. Built-in video is going to be included in a number of future CPUs and the fact that we will design systems that run at greater than 16Mhz is obvious.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞ PERCEPTION VS. REALITY!

The reality is that the majority of third-party software and hardware work perfectly fine with the IIci. Apple's internal testing prior to the IIci introduction yielded results comparable to

other recently introduced CPUs (i.e. ≥ 90% compatibility). And, among the small number of third-party compatibility problems related to the IIci most have been revealed and corrected. In addition, with the exception of three products, all of Apple's hardware, software and networking and communication products were compatible with the IIci at introduction.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞ CONCLUSION

There are three key points that should be emphasized in any discussions surrounding IIci compatibility.

  1) The vast majority of third-party hardware and software is
     compatible with the IIci.

  2) The IIci introduced a number of significant improvements to
     the Macintosh architecture and many of the compatibility problems
     are related to these improvements.

  3) The majority of the modifications that third-party developers are
     having to make to support the IIci are changes that will be
     necessary to support future CPUs and future versions of the
     Macintosh operating system.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞ IN THIS FOLDER - IIci Compatability Reports and Lists

In an effort to promote a better understanding of the issues surrounding IIci compatibility, there are three additional documents in this folder.

1. IIci Compatibility Report-SUMMARY
   This is an abridged AppleLink memo version of the full IIci
   compatibility report which provides a less technical summary for those who
   don't need to read the more detailed full report.

2. IIci Compatibility Report
   This is the full, detailed 7 page AppleLink Image file explaining why
   certain incompatabilities have occurred and what is being done about them.

3. IIci Third Party Compatibility List
   This list (posted by company and by product as AppleLink Image files) was
   gathered through a survey of the leading Macintosh third-party developers
   and includes over 350 of the leading hardware and software products, all of
   which are compatible with the IIci.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the materials posted, please contact me at AppleLink address MARK.ORR.

Thanks!

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3rd Party Connection
Compatibility Lists
Macintosh IIci Compatibility Update
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