

Re: 3Com 3C05 adapter on 43P running 4.3

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.aix/2004-03/0217.html>

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In article <f0701dba.0403071044.7c163434@posting.google.com>, Jon Parmet <jon@parmetpc.volpe.dot.gov> wrote:

> *FlossyFloss* <flossyflossmail-news@yahoo.com> wrote in message news:<c2d9us\$5d5\$1@charly.heeg.de>...

>> *Jon Parmet* wrote:

>>

> *My other reply hasn't appeared on Google. I went and pulled the 3Com card out, and the ent0 PCI adapter still shows up. I think I just missed it before. My bad. So the on-board adapter goes through the PCI bus, fair enough.*

>

> *I guess the next question then is since the 3C905-T4 isn't plug N play with this box, does the 43P support it at all?*

Well, it **is** plug-and-play... the 43P will support it fine **if** you have a device driver for the OS to make it usable.

This is what you are missing -- the driver. To which, there was none made for the type of card you have. All hardware with drivers are essentially the ones that has an IBM feature code number and sometimes has IBM firmware or the vendor otherwise certified it for operation on AIX boxes along with providing an AIX device driver.

In a nutshell, you will have to either write an AIX device driver for the ethernet card, or get a different ethernet adapter... and one that is specifically certified for AIX since it will have a device driver available (either in the base AIX OS or as a separate fileset provided by the manufacturer).

For example, you can get the feature code (FC) 2968 ethernet adapter which is an IBM 10/100 Mbps fast ethernet PCI card on ebay with a starting bid of \$75:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=3082911798&category=51195>

(They've even got 250 available!! You could buy just one or many...)

The device driver is already built into the OS, so it's just a matter of shutting down the machine (if this is not a newer pSeries machine that supports turning off PCI slot power like the 6H1), inserting the new enet card, and then powering it on. Boot will run cfgmgr automatically (does so on every boot) which will detect the device.

You asked about en vs et... the *physical* card is, for example, ent0.

What is en0? It is the logical ethernet interface that adheres to the DIX (aka 'Ethernet II') encapsulation standard. This is the standard that the rest of world ordinarily uses today.

What is et0? It is the logical ethernet interface that adheres to the IEEE 802.3 LLC/SNAP encapsulation standard.

It's slightly different than DIX, so if you have network hardware that ONLY understands this format and try to transmit DIX-encap'd Ethernet frames, it will be like speaking gibberish.

Both are ethernet and refers to the same underlying physical device; the difference is that the card will transmit packets constructed differently, depending on if you configure en0 or et0.

99.9999999% of the time, you'll only use en0 and just disregard et0 unless you've got some *really* oddball/broken network that requires the alternative encap standard. This may have been slightly more common 10-15 years ago, but just about nonexistent these days.

IBM provides supports for both encap standards as a nicety, giving the customer options.

-Dan