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FAX/MODEM CAPABILITIES

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While fax/modem software is not exactly new, it certainly rates up there with some of the best in productivity software for 1994. If you own a computer with a modem that is 9600 baud or greater and it has FAX capabilities you are a candidate to use the new line of fax/modem software available for PCs.

14.4 Kb/s (and Greater!) Power

The best combination of hardware and software right now seems to be 14.4 kilobits per second (Kb/s) data/fax/modems and one of the fax/modem software products. These new, low-cost, high-speed 14.4Kb/s or V.32 bis modems are tremendous and will actually automatically increase speed to 19.2Kb/s (or V.32 terbo modems) when they sense comparable modems at both ends of the communication line. With real speeds of 19.2Kb/s and a price now under $300 per modem, almost everyone can afford to have the real-time data exchange possible when using these modems. An even newer development is the release of the new 28.8 Kb/s modems. These V.fast class (or V.FC) modem products are priced between $500 and $700 and are available from several different vendors. However, these modems are not yet standard and will have to be upgraded to V.34 when the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) specifications are approved.

The following is a list of some of the current vendors of modems:

Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc.	(404) 441–1617
Microcom Inc.	(617) 551–1000
MultiTech Systems, Inc.	(612) 785–9874
U.S. Robotics Inc.	(708) 982–5001

Software that Works is the Answer

Fax/modem software, when combined with one of the fax compatible modems, will allow end users to send faxes from the fax/modem in their computer. Feeding sheets through the fax machine will not be necessary for documents created on the system. If the document

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you are faxing is kept on electronic media, all you need to do is select the fax/modem port as your print device and print the document. This is especially helpful when you are faxing a multiple page document or you are faxing a document to many people. The software will allow you to keep a phone book of people to whom you fax often. Some software versions even allow you to set up groups so that all you need to do is select the group of people you need to fax and the system takes care of sending each fax (including waiting for a clear line with retries set by you) and error checking of transmission protocol. Errors are reported in a send log. The send log can easily re-submit any fax that was not received due to problems. What used to be a hassle is now a simple print command.

Receive Faxes Too

Some of the products also allow you to set your machine to receive faxes and then print them on plain paper. While not as nice as a real plain paper fax machine, this could be a great way to get around the high cost of plain paper fax in the short term.

Windows Enhancement

The fax process is enhanced greatly when using Windows 3.1, Windows for Workgroups, or Windows NT. They provide multitasking, which allows the user to continue working on something else while the faxing process takes place in the background. In fact, the latest release of Windows for Workgroups will allow end users to not only fax in the background but will allow one computer to share its fax modem with other users across the peer-to-peer network much like a shared printer.

Current Fax Software Products

Currently, the following fax/modem software products are available. It seems that Winfax Pro and DOSfax Pro from Delrina are the most popular choice.

Product	Vendor	Contact
• DOSfax Pro	Delrina	(416) 441–3676
• Eclipse Fax	Phoenix Technologies, Ltd.	(617) 551–4000
• FaxWorks Pro	SofNet Inc.	(404) 984–8088
• QuickLink Gold	Smith Micro Software, Inc.	(714) 362–5800
• Winfax Pro	Delrina	(416) 441–3676