

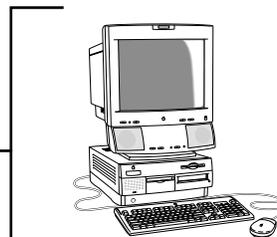
PRIORITY:	Normal
DATE:	September 16, 1999
TITLE:	Using ALPHA Messaging and AlphaNET <i>plus</i> software with Apple iMac, G3, and G4 computers
ECO REFERENCE:	None
PRODUCT(S) AFFECTED:	Alpha Messaging and AlphaNET <i>plus</i> for Windows software
SUMMARY:	This document shows how to configure a Universal Serial Bus (USB)-enabled Apple iMac, G3, or G4 computer so that it operates like a standard PC in order to display messages on ALPHA signs using ALPHA Messaging or AlphaNET <i>plus</i> for Windows software.

Introduction

This document shows how to configure a Universal Serial Bus (USB)-enabled Apple iMac, G3, or G4 computer so that it operates like a standard PC in order to display messages on ALPHA signs using ALPHA Messaging or AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software.

NOTE: While all iMac and G4 computers have USB ports, only one type of G3 computer has USB capabilities.

These two G3 models do NOT have USB capability.
(This TechMemo cannot be used with either of these two models.)

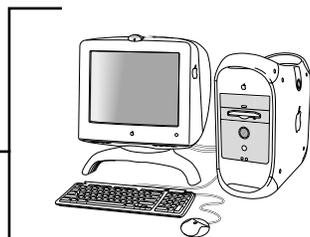


G3 Desktop (beige colored)



G3 Mini Tower (beige colored)

This G3 model does have USB capability.



G3 (blue-and-white colored)

Required materials

Qty	Description
1	¹ Belkin USB-to-Serial Adapter
1	² Connectix Virtual PC v2.1.2 or greater software (Insignia SoftWindows software could also be used, but it was not tested.)
1	³ ALPHA Messaging or AlphaNET <i>plus</i> for Windows

NOTES:

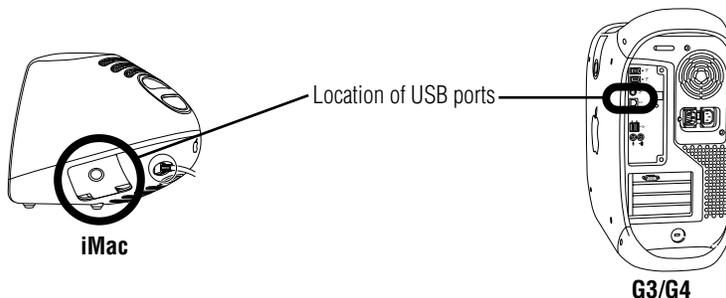
¹ Available through MacWarehouse (800-622-6222) for about \$70.
² Available through MacWarehouse (800-622-6222) for about \$70.
³ Available through Adaptive Micro Systems.

Directions

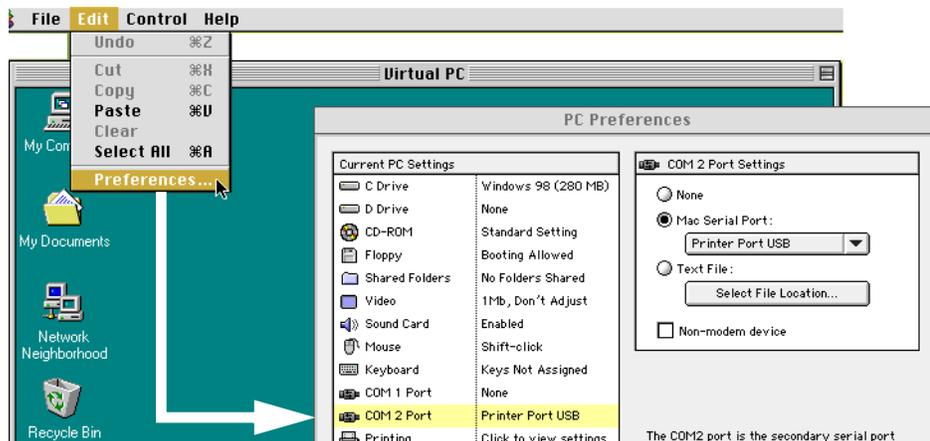
Set up the USB port

1. Install the USB-to-Serial Adapter as directed by the manufacturer's instructions.

NOTE: In these instructions, the USB-to-Serial Adapter will be shown connected to USB port 2. When used with Virtual PC software, the USB ports correspond to PC-type "COM" ports. So USB port 2 will be treated the same way as a PC's COM 2 port.



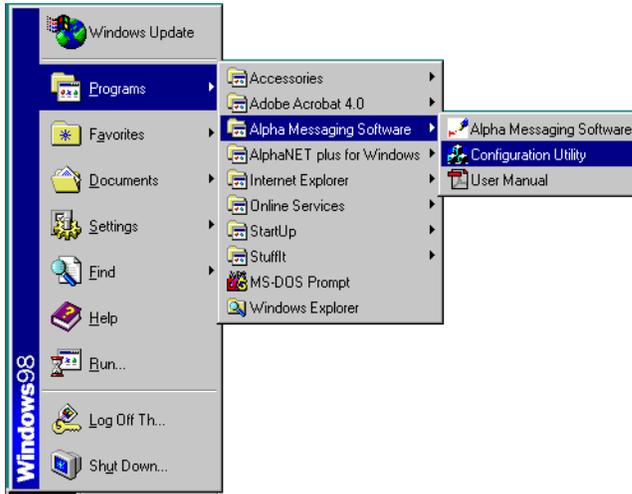
2. Connect your ALPHA sign(s) to the USB-to-Serial Adapter as shown in the section titled "How to network ALPHA signs".
3. Install the Virtual PC software as directed by the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Start the Virtual PC software. Select *Preferences* and set one of the COM ports to a *Mac Serial Port*:



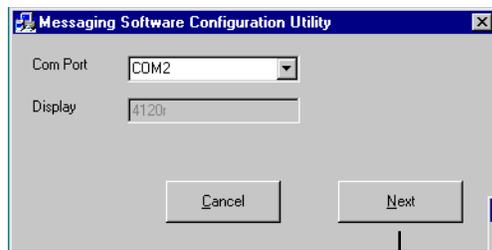
How to install Alpha Messaging software

Follow these directions if you are using Alpha Messaging software:

1. While still running Virtual PC, install the ALPHA Messaging software.
2. After the messaging software is installed, select the *Configuration Utility*:

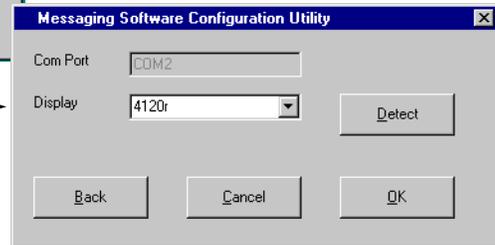


3. Follow the prompts to select a COM port and display type:



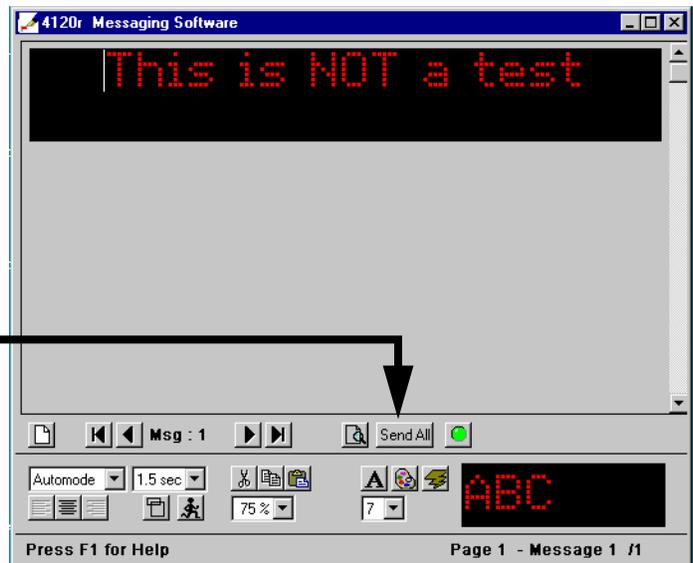
If everything is set up correctly, the *Configurations Utility* should automatically detect the sign you have connected to your Macintosh.

(In this case an ALPHA 4120R is shown as an example.)



4. Finally, run the ALPHA Messaging software and try sending a message:

Type a message.



Click on *Send All* and your message should appear on the sign(s) you have connected to your Macintosh.

How to install AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software

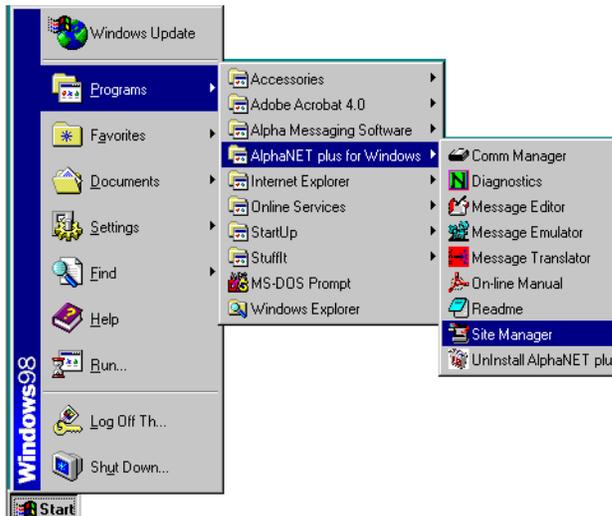
1. While still running Virtual PC, install the AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software.

NOTE: During the installation process, you'll be prompted to insert the AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software diskettes. Make sure to eject each diskette by (1) selecting *Eject Floppy* from the Virtual PC window, and then (2) pressing the eject button on your diskette drive. If you fail to follow this procedure, you may have to quit the installation process and start again.

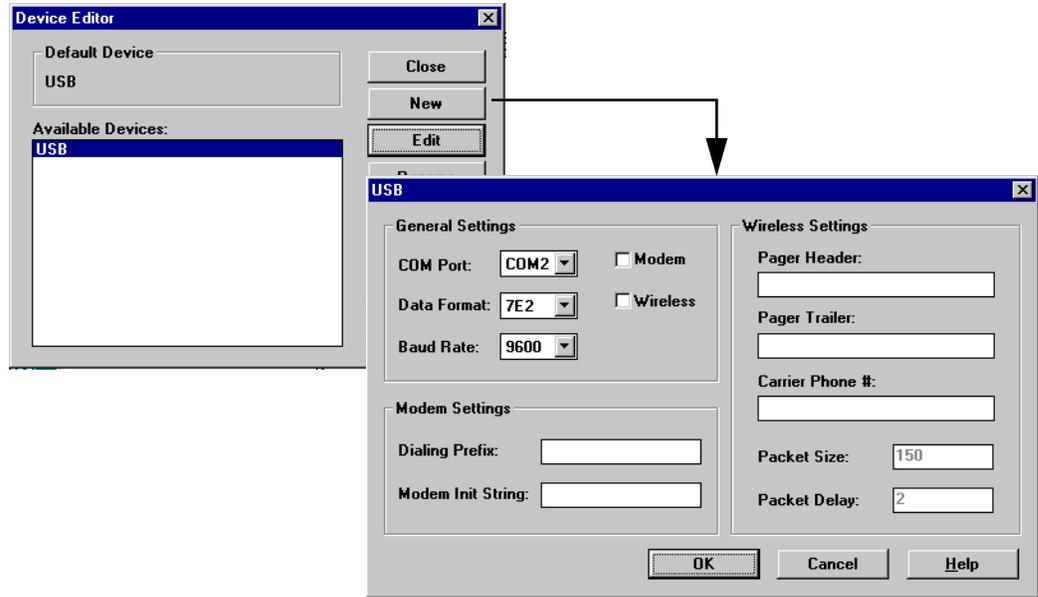


When prompted for the next software diskette, always select *Eject Floppy* first. Then press the eject button on your diskette drive.

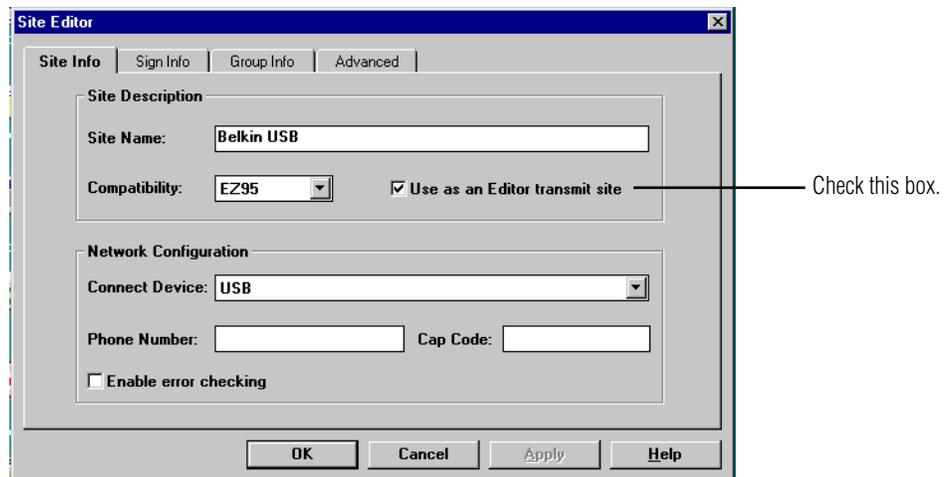
2. After the software is installed, open the *Site Manager* application:



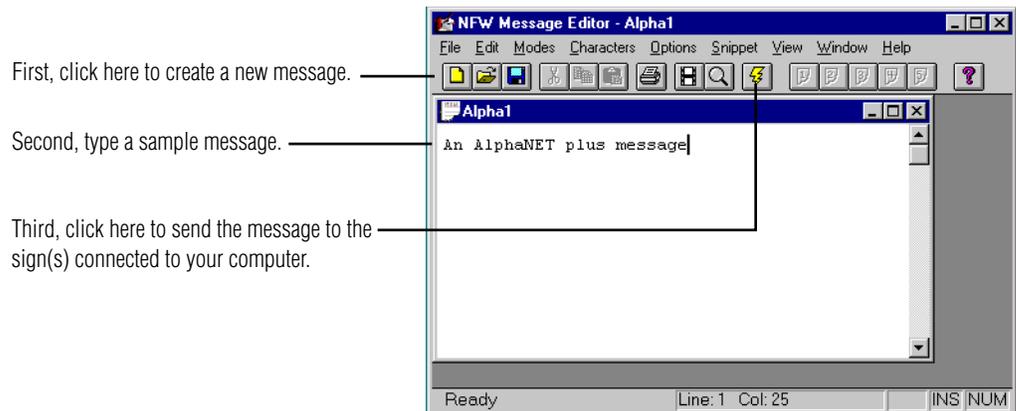
- To test the software, from the *Site Manager* window, select *Edit > Device* to set up a device:



- Next, set up a test site by selecting *File > New Site* from the *Site Manager* window:



- Open the *Message Editor* application and create a sample message to send:



How to network ALPHA signs

Connecting a single sign

Macintosh iMac, G3, or G4 computer running Virtual PC and Alpha Messaging or AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software

Item	Part #	Description
A	—	This sign can be an: ALPHA 200, 300, 4000, or 7000 series, ALPHAVISION, BIG DOT, BETA BRITE, Director, Solar, or Personal Priority Display.
B	1088-8625	25-foot 6-conductor RS232 data cable
	1088-8627	50-foot 6-conductor RS232 data cable
C	1088-9108	9 pin sub-D/to 6 pos. RJ11 adapter
D	—	Belkin USB-to-Serial Adapter

NOTE: The 4000 and 7000 Series and Director signs must have an internal jumper set to RS232.

Connecting multiple signs

Macintosh iMac, G3, or G4 computer running Virtual PC and Alpha Messaging or AlphaNET *plus* for Windows software

Item	Part #	Description
A	—	This sign can be an: ALPHA 200, 300, 4000, or 7000 series, ALPHAVISION, BIG DOT, BETA BRITE, Director, Solar, or Personal Priority Display.
B	1088-9107	End-of-Line (EOL) terminator (An EOL must be plugged into the RS232 or TTL plug on the <i>last</i> sign.)
C	1088-8624	8 foot, 4-conductor RS485 cable
	1088-8636	1 foot, 4-conductor RS485 cable
D	1088-9103	Modular Network Adapter
E	1088-8000	RS485 cable
F	1088-1111	Converter Box III
G	1088-8634	10 foot, 9 pin-to-9 pin, type "A9" RS232 cable
H	—	Belkin USB-to-Serial Adapter

NOTE: The 4000 and 7000 Series and Director signs must have an internal jumper set to RS232.