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Excessive output errors using eeE MDI driver for Intel EtherExpress Pro/100B

Keywords

openserver v5 osr5 intel etherexpress EE NIC LAN adapter controller ISA PCI MDI ethernet enet 82557 eeE TP RJ45 twisted UTP 10BaseT [TLS595](#) opkts oerrs pro/100b pro100b netstat error packet rate 10 100 sync operation async r1.6 nic hub switch auto

Release

SCO OpenServer Enterprise System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4
SCO OpenServer Host System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4
SCO OpenServer Desktop System Release 5.0.0, 5.0.2, 5.0.4
SCO Internet FastStart Release 1.0.0, 1.1.0

Problem

The Intel EtherExpress Pro/100B NIC and the eeE MDI version 1.2.0 driver is configured in a machine. I'm seeing at or near 100% error rate on outgoing packets.

The output of "netstat -i" shows that "Oerrs" are equal to "Opkts". This means that the number of outbound errors is equal to the number outbound packets.

When the NIC is explicitly configured for "10Mbps" operation the physical interface is configured to operate in sync mode. In most cases this is incorrect. Most available hubs and switches are async **devices**. The extremely high error rate is a result of the driver being set for sync operation when connected to async network hardware.

Solution

The eeE driver can be configured for "auto", "10Mbps", or "100Mbps" operation. In auto mode the card determines the speed of the network and whether to operate in "sync" or "async" mode. Use the program "netconfig" and select the driver for the Pro/100B. Select "configure", and use the "Advanced Options" to select the "Auto" option. Exit netconfig and rebuild the kernel when prompted. Reboot the system.

Driver version 1.2.0 was previously available as [TLS595](#) on the SCO web site. Version 1.2.0 has been relocated to the AHS area on the sco web site and has a 07 Mar 97 date on the floppy label. The directory containing eeE MDI is:

`/AHS/5.0/sco/new/pro100b`

The site is <ftp.sco.com> or <www.sco.com>.

A newer driver will be released. By default it will initialize to async operation when "10Mbs" is selected.

See Also

[Technical Article 101579](#) "Which Intel networking products are supported in the SCO environment?"

[Technical Article 107622](#), "Intel EtherExpress Pro/100 or Pro/100B NIC isn't working."

[Technical Article 101596](#), "Using Intel Pro/100B NIC: 'WARNING: eeE: Allocb **failure** during initialization'".

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