

SonnetCache 1.4b1

April 28, 2005

Description:

This is the beta version of SonnetCache 1.4; the final release will come after testing and updating are completed with the shipping version of Mac OS X Version 10.4 (Tiger). **This software is intended solely for users of Mac OS X Version 10.4**; OS X Version 10.3 users should use SonnetCache 1.3.1 at this time. This beta version of SonnetCache.pkg installs SonnetCache.kext, which does two simple things: First, it enables Sonnet processor upgrade cards' L2 and L3 caches under Mac OS X (if they are not already enabled by the Mac ROM). Second, it will correctly report the processor speed to the Mac OS X kernel. At this time, the processor upgrade card's cache(s) size and speed information will not be reported (in some cases); this should be fixed in the final release. SonnetCache.kext should work with any manufacturer's processor upgrade card, although testing with other manufacturers' products has not been as thorough as it has been with Sonnet's products.

Installation:

To install the SonnetCache.kext file in your /System/Library/Extensions/ folder, **you must run the SonnetCache.pkg**, which handles the authorization to install kernel extensions, **with your system booted in 10.4**.

Double-click SonnetCache.pkg to start the built-in Mac OS X install program and follow the directions. Please note that in order to make the SonnetCache.kext active, you must restart Mac OS X on the volume that you chose for installation of SonnetCache.kext after the install is complete.

About SonnetCache.pkg:

This installer partially replaces Sonnet X Tune-Up (all versions). Sonnet X Tune-Up installed the SonnetCache.kext file under OS X. Under OS 9, Sonnet X Tune-Up installed Startup Disk X, a special control panel (required by some computers) which enabled switching between Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X operating systems on processor-upgraded computers. Startup Disk X is now installed by Sonnet's Crescendo/Encore software, version 2.3 and later. You may download the latest Crescendo/Encore software from Sonnet's web site at: www.sonnettech.com/downloads/

• New in Version 1.4b1

– Adds limited support under Mac OS X Version 10.4; see Description above.

• New in Version 1.3.1

– Adds full support for 7447A processor-based Encore/ST G4 processor upgrade cards.

• New in Version 1.3

– Fixed an issue when SonnetCache.kext 1.2.8 would cause a boot crash in some computers upgraded with a Sonnet Encore/ZIF 700 MHz (or faster) processor card.

– Fixed an issue when Sonnet X Tune-Up 1.2.7 installed additional files for “unsupported” Mac OS X Macintosh systems that were incompatible with Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther).

– Fixed an issue where all previous versions of SonnetCache.kext would fail under Mac OS X 10.3 (Panther) with any 500 MHz or slower G3 or G4 processor upgrade card.

• **New in Version 1.2.8**

– Added support for 745x processor-based Encore/ZIF G4 (800 MHz and faster) processor upgrade cards In Power Macintosh® G3 Blue & White and Power Mac® G4 (PCI Graphics) systems.

• **New in Version 1.2.7**

– Added support for Encore/ZIF G4 1.0 GHz processor card.
– Enabled Mac OS X to correctly identify processor speed, L2 and L3 cache information on systems upgraded with an Encore/ST G4 1.25 GHz processor card.

• **New in Version 1.2.6**

– Enabled Apple System Profiler to correctly display L2 and L3 cache information.

• **New in Version 1.2.5**

– Added support for Mac OS X Version 10.2.
– Added support for the Crescendo/PCI G4 800 MHz/1M processor upgrade card.

• **New in Version 1.2**

– Changed name of L2 cache enabler kernel extension from SonnetCPUDriver.kext to SonnetCache.kext.
– Enhanced L2 cache enabler kernel extension to be more robust, speed boot process.
– Added support for 7410 processor L2 cache.

Troubleshooting:

In rare cases, SonnetCache.kext may cause a kernel panic crash at boot. It is easy to recover the system; simply remove the single SonnetCache.kext file from the /System/Library/Extensions/ folder. SonnetCache.kext should work on any Macintosh, although in many cases it would do nothing without a processor upgrade installed. If you encounter problems after running the SonnetCache.pkg and restarting your system, follow the steps below.

1. Boot your system in “verbose” mode (power on your Mac and immediately hold down the “command” and the “v” keys until text begins to appear on screen instead of the normal startup graphics).
2. If a kernel panic occurs, go to step 3. Otherwise, find a single line starting with “SonnetCache” followed by a listing of the processor registers and their values; this is SonnetCache.kext working correctly.
3. When a kernel panic happens, a dump of multiple lines of register values will appear; please send this information to suport@sonnettech.com along with your system configuration.

Kernel Panic Recovery:

You must reboot your system while you press and hold down the option key until a) your system boots into Mac OS 9, or b) you are allowed to choose another boot partition.

a) If you are given the option, boot into Mac OS 9, and then simply go into the Mac OS X drive/partition which SonnetCache.kext is installed and find the /System/Library/Extensions/ folder. Delete SonnetCache.kext from that folder, and then empty the trash. Reboot back into the Mac OS X drive/partition from which the SonnetCache.kext was removed; the system has been exactly restored to its previous state.

b) If you rebooted into a different Mac OS X system, then start the Terminal application (/Applications/Utilities/Terminal) and type: `sudo rm -r /Volumes/name of volume you installed SonnetCache.kext into/System/Library/Extensions/SonnetCache.kext` then hit the return key, then type: `sudo touch /Volumes/name of volume you installed SonnetCache.kext into/System/Library/Extensions/`, and then hit the return key again. Reboot back into the Mac OS X drive/partition from which the SonnetCache.kext was removed; the system has been exactly restored to its previous state.

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Remember to register your software online at <http://registration.sonnettech.com> to be informed of future upgrades and product releases.

Sonnet Technologies' Customer Service hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time.

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