

# End of Sale for Token Ring Adapters

## Introduction

Cisco Systems is again extending the end of sale of two Token Ring port adapters: PA-4R and PA-4R-FDX. These products are being replaced by the new Dedicated Token Ring Port Adapter (PA-4R-DTR), which provides more functionality and higher throughput capability.

The end of sale date was previously announced as July 30, 1999 (Product Bulletin # 827), then extended to February 23, 2000 (Product Bulletin # 946). Because of additional component availability, that date is being extended again. Orders for these products will continue to be accepted *for as long as supplies last*, but no later than December 1, 2000. The last shipment date is December 29, 2000.

## Discontinued Products

Table 1 lists the discontinued products and their replacements.

Table 1 Discontinued Products

Existing Product Number	Description	Replacement Product Number
PA-4R(=)	Four-port Token Ring port adapter	PA-4R-DTR(=)
PA-4R-FDX(=)	Four-port full-duplex Token Ring port adapter	PA-4R-DTR(=)

## Replacement Product Information

The port adapters being discontinued have been available for more than two years and utilize electronic components that soon will no longer be available. As a result, Cisco has developed a replacement for these port adapters that uses newer technology components. The new Dedicated Token Ring Port Adapter (PA-4R-DTR) can replace either of the discontinued port adapters in most installations. The PA-4R-DTR port adapter, which is currently shipping, is the preferred choice for several reasons:

- It has a lower purchase price than the end-of-sale adapters.
- It has a higher packet throughput capability.
- It has more functionality (for example, IEEE 802.5r concentrator port capability).
- It uses new, improved technology.

The PA-4R-DTR port adapter is supported in Cisco IOS<sup>®</sup> Releases 11.1CA, 11.1CC, 11.3T, 12.0, and later (see Table 2 for specific maintenance releases where support begins). The PA-4R-DTR port adapter is not currently supported in Cisco IOS Release 11.2 or in Cisco IOS Release 11.1 Mainline and earlier releases.

Table 2 Cisco IOS Release Support

Product	Cisco IOS Release Where Supported
PA-4R-DTR(=)	Release 11.1(20)CA1, 11.1(22)CC, 11.3(6)T, and 12.0(1)
PA-4R(=)	Release 11.1, 11.1CA, 11.2, 11.2P, 11.3, 11.3T, and 12.0
PA-4R-FDX(=)	Release 11.1CA, 11.2P, 11.3, 11.3T, and 12.0

Whenever possible, customers should select the PA-4R-DTR port adapter for their Token Ring connectivity on Cisco 7200 and Cisco 7500 series routers. However, Cisco understands that some customers may have requirements to continue using one of the older adapters. For example, customers may require an older adapter if they have begun a rollout plan and have standardized on a Cisco IOS release that does not support the PA-4R-DTR. Customers planning a new rollout of Token Ring port adapters should choose the PA-4R-DTR with an appropriate software release. If this is not possible, they should plan to conclude the rollout prior to December 29, 2000. Beyond this date, Cisco cannot guarantee availability of the discontinued products.

### Support Programs

End of sale refers to the time when certain products are no longer available for new purchases. It does not apply to the service and support programs for those products. Cisco will continue to support the Token Ring port adapters after end of sale through its SMARTnet™ and Comprehensive Maintenance programs. Customers with either of these service contracts are entitled to free software updates, 24-hour telephone support through the Technical Assistance Center (TAC), and advanced replacement hardware for repairs. Comprehensive Maintenance customers also receive onsite service. To meet specific requirements, customers who do not have a maintenance contract can purchase software updates and hardware repair services rather than full service coverage. Cisco is committed to providing software support for a minimum of two years and providing hardware support for five years after the end-of-sale date.



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