

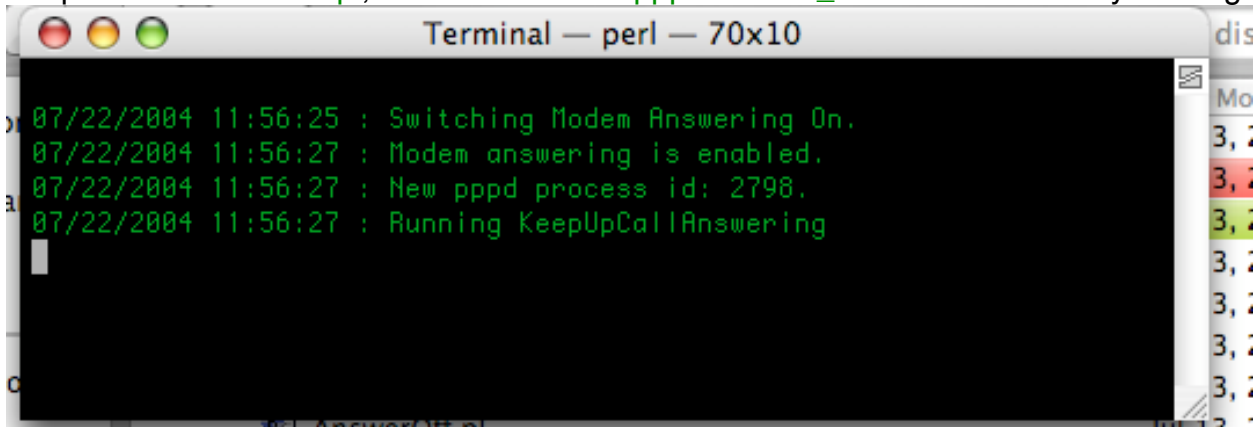
Inside SeaSonde

How AutoAnswerPPP works

OS X does not have a built in way of answering the phone line unless you buy the expensive OS X Server version. Relax, it is there but it needs to be specially invoked in order to work; hence, the [InstallAutoAnswerPPP](#). What the installer does is add a User startup item to invoke the [pppd](#) daemon process with special configuration files, which cause it to wait forever until the phone rings.

The installer will install all the necessary files first into `/Codar/SeaSonde/Apps/Scripts/` folder. The installer will then copy, with proper access right, the `ppp_for_etc` files to the `/etc` folder (This folder is invisible to the Finder.) These configuration files tell [pppd](#) how to set up for auto answer.

The installer adds a user Startup Items to open `/Codar/SeaSonde/Apps/Scripts/Term/AnswerOn.term` each time the user logs in which is what happens automatically after the computer starts up. The `AnswerOn.term` opens the `Terminal` application with a new window and runs the Perl script in `Scripts/Perl/AnswerOn.pl`, which will launch `'pppd answer_on'` if it is not already running.

A screenshot of a macOS Terminal window titled "Terminal — perl — 70x10". The window shows the output of a Perl script. The text is as follows:

```
07/22/2004 11:56:25 : Switching Modem Answering On.  
07/22/2004 11:56:27 : Modem answering is enabled.  
07/22/2004 11:56:27 : New pppd process id: 2798.  
07/22/2004 11:56:27 : Running KeepUpCallAnswering
```

[AnswerOn.pl](#) will also launch `Script/Apple/KeepUpCallAnswering`, which is an invisible applescript (won't show in Dock). `KeepUpCallAnswering` will check every ten minutes for any application running call `'pppd'`. If it does not find one after two successive tries, it will launch `'AnswerOn.term'`. `KeepUpCallAnswering` does this to ensure that failed connections which can cause `pppd` to give up and quit, cause `pppd answer_on` to be re-invoked. This also ensures that call answering recovers after an outgoing call.

To temporarily turn off call answering, double-click the [CallAnswerOff](#) script or the [AnswerOff.term](#)

To turn on call answering, double-click the [CallAnswerOn](#) script or the [AnswerOn.term](#)

To permanently turn off call answering, double-click [CallAnswerOff](#) and [RemoveCallAnswerStartup](#).