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ARA 2.0: Third-Party Vendor Support (11/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article provides information on Third-Party vendor support for Apple Remote Access product family.

DISCUSSION -----

More than 12 leading third-party vendors will be shipping products built upon the Apple Remote Access product family architecture. The Apple Remote Access product family architecture consists of the new AppleTalk Remote Access Protocol (ARAP) 2.0 and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). Third-party vendors utilizing the Apple Remote Access product family architecture offer Apple Remote Access users a wide variety of solutions, enhancements and options.

The Apple Remote Access architecture empower third-party vendors to create a variety of service solutions including: the building of stand-alone remote access servers, security enhancements, and reporting applications.

To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor name as a search string.

Apple Remote Access Portability

Leading companies such as APT Communications, Inc.; Cayman Systems; Cisco Systems, Inc.; Computer Methods Corporation; FCR Software, Inc.; Global Village Communication, Inc.; Pacer Software, Inc.; Shiva Corporation; Telebit; Webster Computer Corporation; and Xylogics, Inc. have announced independent products that support ARAP 2.0. These companies are building server functionality into other devices such as: dial-in communication equipment, routers, bridges, print and file servers and other computer systems or stand alone products.

Integrated Security Solutions

Key security vendors such as Digital Pathways, Inc.; MicroFrame, Inc.; Open Computing Security Group (OCSG); and Security Dynamics, Inc. have announced Apple Remote Access security products. These security products augment the advanced security features already found in the Apple Remote Access MultiPort Server and adhere to recognized security standards such as

Kerberos network access security, Digital Encryption Standard (DES) password scrambling, and other token and card-based systems. The security functionality is added by the vendors through the Apple Remote Access security architecture which includes a Client and Server Security Application Programming Interface (API).

Reporting and Call Accounting

Additional third-party opportunities are available through the Apple Remote Access MultiPort Server logging system. They can incorporate the logging information into network management and resource allocation solutions. This information is readily available to any solution since it is stored as tab-delimited text. Examples of accessible information include: date and time of connections, disconnection, and connection-attempts events. Other available information includes user IDs, optional accounting and charge back identification information.

Remote Access Client Interfaces

Third-parties can also hook their applications directly into the Apple Remote Access Client through the architecture's API for the customization of commercial and in-house applications. This allows third-party applications to dial-out and make connections transparently to remote networks without the users knowledge or training of Apple Remote Access Client software. Examples of companies developing these kinds of products include Farallon Computing, Inc. and No Hands Software.

Modem and Terminal Adapter Support

While Apple has included automated modem scripts in it's new products for most of the leading modem and ISDN terminal adapter companies, it has also created the Apple Remote Modem Access Scripting Guide and the Modem Workshop Software, which allows modem vendors, in-house developers, and other technical users to write scripts for their particular modems, terminal adapters or PBX systems.

Apple Remote Access Architecture Products and Availability

The Apple Remote Access architecture consist of the enhanced AppleTalk Remote Access Protocol (ARAP) 2.0 specification and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). The ARAP 2.0 specification provides the necessary interfaces for building compliant servers. The APIs include the security and client application interfaces. The protocol specifications and APIs are available in the AppleTalk Remote Access Protocol Developers Kit V.2.0. The Modem Scripting Guide and Modem Workshop software are available in the AppleTalk Remote Access Modem Tool Kit V.2.0. Each of these tool kits are available from APDA, Apple's source for developer tools.
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