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AIR: Comparing TCP/IP Tunneling with DECnet Tunneling

Article Created: 3 February 1993

TOPIC -----

This article compares Apple Internet Router TCP/IP tunneling with DECnet Tunneling.

DISCUSSION -----

Although DECnet tunneling and TCP/IP tunneling are similar, there are some important configuration differences between them.

Since MacTCP supports only one TCP/IP port at a time, only one TCP/IP tunneling port will be supported per router. However, Apple Internet Router supports multipoint tunneling, in which each tunneling port may have any number of tunneling partners.

In contrast to Apple Internet Router, DECnet tunneling uses point-to-point tunneling. In other words, there is only one partner for each tunnel, and each tunnel is specified separately. Each VAX acting as an AppleTalk router may have any number of tunnels active on the same physical port, each one constituting a logical AppleTalk port. A separate tunnel is used to get to any individual partner, even if they are all on the same DECnet.

Another difference between TCP/IP tunneling and DECnet tunneling is that because a VAX can be a DECnet router as well as an AppleTalk router, it can route AppleTalk between two or more separate DECnet networks. Because MacTCP cannot be configured as a TCP/IP router, Apple Internet Router cannot route AppleTalk between two separate TCP/IP networks. That would have to be done by separate TCP/IP routers.

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 11485