Apple Internet Router: General Q&A (2/93)

Article Created: 8 February 1993

TOPIC ---

This article contains Apple Internet Router product related Questions and
Answers.

DISCUSSION ---

Q: What did Apple introduce at Networld in Boston this January?
A: Apple introduced the Apple Internet Router product family. The new
   product line allows local and remote Macintosh computers or PC
   workgroups to easily interconnect. The new router software
   allows organizations to increase the size, performance, and manageability
   of their AppleTalk networks. It is also Apple's first implementation of
   the AppleTalk Update-based Routing Protocol (AURP), a new technology
   that significantly reduces network traffic over an internet.

Q: What is a router?
A: Routers are devices that can connect multiple networks, providing for
   two or more connections. Routers operate at Level 3 (network) of the
   ISO OSI model and are protocol sensitive, allowing a router to send data
   packets along alternate paths and "intelligently" decide how to best
   route data packets. Routers send data along the best available path
   based on traffic levels, availability, and the general status of wide-
   area connections.

Q: What are the products that make up this family?
A: Apple is introducing three Apple Internet Router products: a base
   routing software kit and two extension kits. The Basic Connectivity
   Package provides the core routing software and technology. Apple's two
   extension packages—the AppleTalk/IP Wide Area Extension and the
   AppleTalk/X.25 Wide Area Extension—provide wide area AppleTalk routing
   over TCP/IP and X.25 networks, respectively. The extension kits are
   sold separately.

Q: Why is the AppleTalk/X25 Wide Area Extension product so much more
   expensive than the other router family products?
A: The AppleTalk/X25 Wide Area Extension product includes Router X.25
   software and installer in addition to Apple's MacX25 server software.

The price is derived from the combined cost of the router X.25 software
and the MacX25 sever software.

Q: Do you need to purchase the Basic Connectivity Package in order to use
   Apple's X.25 or TCP/IP extension packages as well as other third-party
   extension products?
A: Yes. The Basic Connectivity Package provides the core routing software
   and technology on which the extension products build.

Q: How can I get more information or place an order?
A: These products will be available worldwide from Apple authorized
   resellers and in the United States: call The Apple Catalog at
   1-800-795-1000.

Q: How does the new internet router product family differ from Apple's
   current internet router -- the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0?
A: The new router is a completely redesigned product with many capabilities
   beyond the 2.0 router, while still providing all the functionality of the
   2.0 router. The new router provides both wide-area and local-area
   networking. Superior WAN connectivity is made possible by implementing
   a new technology -- called the AppleTalk Update-based Routing Protocol
   (AURP) -- which significantly reduces network traffic. It also provides
   support for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). The new
   router software also provides enhanced LAN support, routing data between
   industry standard LocalTalk, Ethernet, Token-Ring, and other network
   types.

Q: Will the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0 still be available after the new
   router products begin shipping?
A: No. The new Apple Internet Router product family replaces Apple's
   current router, the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0.

Q: Is Apple providing upgrades for AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0 users?
A: Yes. Apple will provide software upgrades until June 12, 1993, with
   proof of purchase.

Q: What network types does the Apple Internet Router work on?
A: The Basic Connectivity package ships with support for AppleTalk over
   LocalTalk, Ethernet, and Token Ring networks, and (using AURP) over
   dial-up modems. The AppleTalk/IP extension ships with support for
   AppleTalk "tunneling" through TCP/IP (using AURP) over either Ethernet
   or Token Ring, and the AppleTalk/X.25 extensions supports X.25 over
   Apple's Serial/NB card. Third parties will be adding support for many
   other network types, such as FDDI and SMDS.

Q: Who are the third parties building extensions for the new router product
   family?
A: There are a variety of third-party companies building extensions for the
   Apple Internet Router product family, including Asante, Farallon
   Computing, Insignia, MultiAccess Computing, Neon Software, and Cabletron.
   There are also many companies that have not yet announced
   support for AURP, but are expected to do so in the near future. For
   detailed information of current solutions, see the Apple Internet

Router Solutions Guide.

Q: What security features does it have?
A: The new router includes security options to protect networks from
   unauthorized use, including a router setup password, half-routing
   password/callback, and the device hiding and network number hiding
   features of AURP.

Q: What monitor and control features does it offer?
A: The new router has built-in SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)
   support which enables the router to be monitored from any SNMP-based
   network management console. It also provides a router log and reports
   network statistics.

Q: What is the significance of providing built-in support for SNMP?
A: SNMP is a widely-adopted industry standard for network management, which
   Apple has adopted as the core part of its network management strategy.
   Through SNMP, the setup and operation of the router can be monitored
   through any number of currently available third-party SNMP consoles.
   Use of SNMP also demonstrates Apple's continued commitment to standards.

Q: How do the new router products enhance local area connectivity?
A: The Apple Internet router can interconnect all types of AppleTalk
   networks, including LocalTalk, Ethernet, and Token Ring. This offers
   greater flexibility in choosing network media and topologies.

Q: What are the operating requirements of the software?
A: The Apple Internet Router software operates on all Macintosh computers
   with at least 4MB of memory, and System 7.0 or later. The
   software was designed for AppleTalk Phase 2 networks only.
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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 11546