



# Tech Info Library

## Ethernet: Bridges and Routers

This article last reviewed: 1 June 1990

TOPIC -----

I need to have 20 Macintoshes on an Ethernet network but want to isolate them from the backbone. I like the Internet router, but need IP routing. Is there a bridging product that supports multiple protocols and does Ethernet-to-Ethernet bridging? Does DEC have such a product?

DISCUSSION -----

Bridges operate at the datalink layer level and are usually indifferent to network protocol. Routers operate at the network layer level and route only specific protocols.

DEC does have bridges that "routes" IP, as do Cisco, CableTron, Ungermann-Bass, Redix, NCS, ACC, and so on. Be aware, however, that some of the older bridges may not pass both 802.3 and Ethernet packets. If you want to isolate the network segment from the backbone, yet route IP and AppleTalk packets, Cisco is one example of the many companies that can provide this support (product descriptions are on AppleLink). They're among many developers of products sometimes called "brouters" or bridge-router hybrids.

Copyright 1990 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 5688