Open Transport: Benefit of Open Transport (9/95)

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TOPIC ---

How will Open Transport benefit users, network managers and organizations, and
developers?

DISCUSSION --

Open Transport provides individual computer users with many benefits. Two of the
most visible and important benefits relate to making networking more
accessible:

Ease of Switching Network Configurations

Open Transport makes it easy to switch from one network configuration to
another. A computer user "on the go" might want to connect to the Internet in
various locations, each requiring a different network configuration. With Open
Transport, settings for each network location can be stored for easy access and
use. Changed settings are available immediately -- no restart of the computer is
required to use the new configuration.

Integrated Online Help

Open Transport integrates online help, based on Apple Guide technology, to make
it easier for an individual to connect to a network, with fewer demands on
network manager and support resources.

Open Transport provides significant new flexibility in setting up network
configurations. A network manager can recommend or require configuration
settings for users on the network, or allow users to determine their own
settings.

Open Transport also improves support for centralized configuration management.
For example, Open Transport/TCP supports the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
(DHCP), letting network managers administer addressing and other TCP/IP
configuration information from a central server.

Open Transport makes it easier and more cost-effective to develop
Macintosh-based applications for a wide variety of customers. With Open
Transport, the Mac OS has built-in networking and communications based on

cross-platform industry standards, including the POSIX compliant X/Open
Transport Interface (XTI), Unix STREAMs and Data Link Provider Interface (DLPI).
Applications written to support Open Transport can directly support a wide range
of networking environments (serial, dial-up network, LAN, and WAN), and multiple
protocols (AppleTalk, TCP/IP, serial, and others) from a common code base.

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