Macintosh-to-VAX Connectivity and Tunneling

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TOPIC --

I am evaluating AlisaShare/Macintosh-to-VAX connectivity. This system will
consist of a HyperCard front end that, based on selections made by the user
(for example, clicking on a series of buttons), downloads a number of Microsoft
Word files from the AlisaShare volume and then merges them together into a
single document. The front end is running smoothly.

The goal of this project is to have all of the components of the proposal
system (for example, the individual premerge Microsoft Word documents) sitting
on a hub VAX at the corporate site. Smaller VAX systems at each remote field
location are connected to the VAX using DECnet. The Macintoshes, on which the
HyperCard front end will run, are then attached to these local VAX systems
through a router (either a FastPath 4 or an Apple Internet Router). I know that
the ability to "tunnel" AppleTalk protocols through DECnet is on the way, but I
need a solution now.

1) Do I need to be concerned about tunneling AppleTalk through DECnet, or
   can the Macintoshes access the VAX at the corporate site directly
   through the Ethernet?

2) Will AppleTalk Phase 2 be necessary? If so, when can I anticipate
   Phase 2 for VMS?

DISCUSSION --

If the remote sites are connected to the hub site via Ethernet bridges, you do
not need to use DECnet "tunneling" as long as the bridges pass the AppleTalk
packets. On the other hand, if the VAX systems function as half bridges with
bridge processes on one communicating with other bridge processes using DECnet
as the link between them, "tunneling" is required.

"Tunneling" is available for AppleTalk for VMS 2.0. You do not have to wait
for AppleTalk Phase 2. However, you should be aware of some possible
"tunneling" problems with AppleTalk for VMS 2.0. These problems are documented
in the Tech Info Library. Search on "tunneling".

Keywords: <None>

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This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

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