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SNA•ps Gateway Security and Starting an SDLC Connection (2/93)

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TOPIC -----

I am looking for a higher level of security between a SNA•ps Gateway 1.1 and the SNA•ps Admin application. I like the ability to lock the gateway so others can't stop the gateway; however I want the same password protection applied to starting locked gateways. Anyone can start a stopped gateway on an AppleTalk network if they have a copy of the SNA•ps Admin program. I use an expensive SDLC connection; is there a way to lock users out from a stopped SNA•ps gateway?

DISCUSSION -----

You are correct about the way SNA•ps gateway works, which is also according to the original design plan. The reason that starting gateways has not required password is because the Settings in the gateway allow for automatic startup at boot and user startup as well. These "user friendly" gateway startup requests should not have a password attached. The idea was to allow unattended gateways to be started if machines were powered down by power failure and power returned or a user wanted to come into an unstarted gateway. The User start feature is used a great deal.

If you do not have SNA•ps ADMIN, you cannot start a stopped gateway that does not enable User Start. No user can stop a started gateway without SNA•ps ADMIN and a password, if one is entered into the Gateway settings.

Now it appears that you have autodialing SDLC gateways, which incur an expense if they are used. So the situation is someone at your site wants to use the SNA•ps Gateway, it needs to be started and it has to make an expensive connection (dial), and this is a problem. We have to conclude that the SNA•ps Gateway administrator desires to start and stop this gateway and block users from doing that process.

Solution

The gateway is configured with the Line set for "Not Automatically Activate" -- that is, do not select the check box to the left of the option. Apply password security to the gateway for stopping and do not select user startup in the gateway settings. It is OK to select automatic startup in

the gateway settings this will download the gateway code and config to the MCP card when the Macintosh boots.

With this setup, the line is not going to be allowed to make a dial SDLC connection until SNA•ps ADMIN is used to display the gateway status, the line name is highlighted, and the resource is activated under the resource menu. With a password protected gateway, the line resource CANNOT be activated, in SNA•ps ADMIN, without the PASSWORD. We think this is what you want. The gateway is started but the line cannot be activated without the password, hence no SDLC connection.

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