MacTCP: Ethernet And IEEE 802.3 Packets

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TOPIC ---

To be useful in our environment, every IP implementation must use an
"Ethernet-style data link layer (EtherType field)" type packet instead of the
"IEEE 802.3/2 data link layer (Length field and SAPs)" type packet.

Which data link layer does MacTCP's IP use?

DISCUSSION --

MacTCP, when using the Ethernet link level protocol as selected via the MacTCP
CDEV, always uses Ethernet-style packets. We are not aware of any
implementations of TCP/IP that use the IEEE 802.3 style packets.

When using the EtherTalk 2.0 link level protocol with MacTCP, IEEE 802.3-style
packets are used. These packets have AppleTalk encapsulated in them, and they
must be decapsulated by a DDP/IP gateway, such as a FastPath. These packets
then are sent to the destination IP address in Ethernet-style packets.

(NOTE: The DDP/IP gateway needs to be AppleTalk Phase 2-compatible to work as
described above.)

The only time IEEE 802.3-style packets are used is when using EtherTalk 2.0.
These packets are seen only by other EtherTalk 2.0 nodes. EtherTalk 1.x uses
the Ethernet-style packets.
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