Macintosh-to-Xerox 6085 Connectivity

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Theoretically, there are several ways for Macintoshes to communicate with a
Xerox 6085, including over AppleTalk. This article examines three
communications methods:

- Xerox 6085 Ethernet connection

- "Kid" from Interpreter, Inc.

- The Xerox 6085 serial-port direct connection

Xerox 6085 Ethernet Connection

The best solutions take advantage of the Xerox 6085 Ethernet communications
ability. The Xerox 6085 with Ethernet installed can use ViewPoint NetCom Xerox
software to provide Ethernet access. This package contains user authentication,
and access to functions such as electronic printing, filing, and mailing. The
communication protocol may be either TCP/IP or XNS.

With TCP/IP, files are transferred using a FastPath from Kinetics, which
connects the Macintosh and LocalTalk to Ethernet. FastPath, in conjunction with
NCSA (National Center for Supercomputer Applications) Telnet software, provides
direct log on, directory listing, and file downloading capabilities within the
FTP support. NCSA Telnet is available on Internet through subscription to
Bitnet, ARPANET, CSNET, and also directly from the University of Illinois.

If TCP/IP is not available, XNS support is available through a 3COM3 server.
This requires that the Macintosh can talk to the server over AppleTalk and that
the Xerox 6085 can talk to the server over XNS. Each, then, may be able to
access one another's files once they have been uploaded to the server.
Although often asked for, XNS is not directly supported by the Macintosh.

"Kid" from Interpreter, Inc.

Kid uses a conversion utility that writes Xerox 6085 files to 5.25-inch DOS
disks. The files can be written to and read from PC software packages, like
Microsoft Word, WordStar, and MultiMate. These PC disks are placed in an Apple
5.25-inch drive. Using AFE (Apple File Exchange) software, you can mount PC
disks. Once mounted, you can read and convert PC-formulated files to Macintosh
formats.

The Xerox 6085 Serial-port Direct Connection

The Xerox 6085 system can communicate through its serial port. One option is
to send serial information from the Xerox 6085 through this port to the
Macintosh, or vice versa. This method represents a low-end connectivity.

For more information, search under: "National Center for Supercomputer
Applications" and "Interpreter, Inc."
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