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GOSIP (Government OSI Profile) Information

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TOPIC -----

What is GOSIP? How close is it to being a standard?

DISCUSSION -----

The Federal Information Processing Standard has already adopted the Government Open Systems Interconnection Profile (GOSIP).

GOSIP defines a common set of data communication protocols that let systems developed by different vendors interoperate and lets the users of different applications on these systems exchange information. These Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) protocols were developed by international standards organizations, primarily the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Consultative Committee on International Telephone and Telegraph (CCITT). GOSIP is based on agreements reached by vendors and users of computer networks participating in the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) Workshop for Implementors of Open Systems Interconnection.

GOSIP shall be used by Federal Government agencies when acquiring computer network products and services and communications systems or services that provide equivalent functionality to the protocols defined in the GOSIP documents. Currently, GOSIP supports the Message Handling Systems and File Transfer, Access, and Management applications. GOSIP also supports interconnection of these network technologies: CCITT Recommendation X.25, Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (IEEE 802.3), Token Bus (IEEE 802.4), and Token Ring (IEEE 802.5). Additional applications and network technologies will be added to later versions of the GOSIP document.

This standard became effective February 15, 1989. For a period of 18 months after the effective date, agencies are permitted to acquire alternative protocols that provide equivalent functionality of the GOSIP protocols.
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