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MacTCP: TCP/IP Ethernet and AppleTalk Compatibility

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TOPIC -----

Here is a question about Macintosh-to-Cray connectivity and AppleTalk Phase 2 products. Will the GatorBox and Kinetics boxes be able to communicate using TCP/IP?

Also, will I be able to use MacTCP with Apple's EtherTalk NB Card and VersaTerm Pro?

DISCUSSION -----

The Kinetics FastPath and the GatorBox are both Datagram Delivery Protocol-Internet Protocol (DDP-IP) gateways. Both perform the same function of taking a TCP/IP packet that is encapsulated in DDP and AppleTalk protocol, and converting it to Ethernet format from LocalTalk. DDP-IP gateways also can assign addresses to MacTCP nodes and handle routing to other networks. PacerLink software from Pacer Software, Inc. can be used in this situation to emulate VT100 terminal with softkeys. VersaTerm Pro terminal emulation software does similar functions and can be used as well.

MacTCP runs over both Ethernet- and LocalTalk-compatible cabling systems. If you run MacTCP on LocalTalk cable, you need a DDP-IP gateway, like the FastPath or the GatorBox. By default, the DDP-IP gateway should be located in the same AppleTalk zone as the Macintosh computer running MacTCP. Alternatively, a single DDP-IP gateway can support Macintosh computers in multiple AppleTalk zones; in this case, the zone where the DDP-IP gateway resides must be selected by the user using the MacTCP Control Panel.

If you run MacTCP over Ethernet using our Ethernet NB Card, you do not need a DDP-IP gateway. You do not need PacerLink or VersaTerm Pro. To provide remote terminal service, you need software, like NCSA Telnet or Internet Systems Corporation (also known as Intercon) TCP/Connect. Both of these software packages provide terminal emulation and file transfer protocol.

For more information, search on the above company names in the Tech Info library.

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