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Apple Internet Router 3.0: Maximum IP Tunnels (6/93)

Article Created: 14 June 1993

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TOPIC -----

I have a TCP/IP network and would like to know how many IP tunnels can the Apple Internet Router 3.0 support running from a central Macintosh Centris 650.

So far I have tried 3 tunnels running at a low 9.6 kbps speed without any problems. What is the practical and design limits?

DISCUSSION -----

As part of the test cycle the QA team used a router configured with 4MB and made over 700 concurrent IP tunneled links to that router. This testing was purely looking at whether this many connections were possible and did not look at whether or not this was a practical limit. The fact is you will probably hinder router performance before you get close to the limit of IP tunnels that can be supported.

Unfortunately no guidelines exist for the practical limits for the Apple Internet Router IP tunnels. Several factors could change the number of IP tunnels that would be usable on an individual router such as, general usage, machine type, network interface, and so on would all have an effect on the total number of usable tunnels. In testing we did run a stress test of 30 routers all connected on the tunnel. This should give you some idea that the router is at least capable of servicing numerous connections. One additional issue to keep in mind is that performance can vary depending on the features being used on the tunnel. Clustering and remapping do not come free, these features can be quite taxing on the routers performance, that is, detrimental to the point that if a router has multiple tunneled connections you should attempt to limit clustering and/or remapping to a single tunnel. Again, this could also be dependent on the computer being used as well.

One thing that you should keep in mind is that the Apple Internet Router 3.0 is not an industrial strength router and is not meant to compete with dedicated router manufacturers.

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 12322