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DAL for MVS/VTAM and CICS Passthru

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TOPIC -----

I have a question regarding our DAL Server for MVS/VTAM. Please explain how the DAL Server is using CICS and the benefits of using CICS Passthru instead of using VTAM directly. We're about to switch from 3270 to APPC for host access, and we'd appreciate any DAL/APPC related information.

DISCUSSION -----

You define the CICS Passthru program using either a DFHPPT macro or the CICS RDO facility. Then you have to define the APPC connection for the CICS Passthru program to CICS using the DFHTCT macro. The SNASVCMG and an APPC (LU 6.2) mode table entry must be installed in the default mode table. CICS uses the APPC mode table entry to establish peer-to-peer communication with the MVS/VTAM Server. The source in DAL.ASM (DALCICSV) is edited; macro operands are modified to meet the needs of your installation.

There's no real benefit in using the CICS Passthru program. Apple has included this connection method because customers have asked for it. But, because of the overhead of CICS, most people prefer the SNA•ps APPC connection once they try it.

We aren't sure what specific information you need for the APPC connection, and it would be impractical to provide all related information. However, you can find information on how to set up a SNA•ps APPC connection in the SNA•ps manuals, and connection and log-in definition in the DAL for Macintosh-Installation and User's Guide.

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