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MacTCP: Suggested Maximum Transfer Unit, MTU Size (3/93)

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TOPIC ---

I have looked for information on the suggested Maximum Transmission Unit
(MTU) size when configuring MacTCP. Also, is it recommended that the MTU
size on a SUN be the same MTU size on a Macintosh when using MacX?

DISCUSSION --

The MTU size is the largest data packet (not including Macintosh layer
information) that can be transferred on the given network type. The MSS
(Maximum Segment Size) is the size of the largest TCP datagram which can
be transferred (minus the IP and TCP header information) configurable for
any data link type other than Token Ring (802.5) networks.

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LocalTalk        MTU =  576 bytes   MSS =  536 bytes
Ethernet         MTU = 1500 bytes   MSS = 1460 bytes
802.3 networks   MTU = 1492 bytes   MSS = 1452 bytes
802.5            MTU = Varies depending on the token holding time, most bridges
                      limit the maximum packet size to 8232 bytes.  After
                      subtracting the Macintosh header and trailer, LLC, IP,
                      and TCP header bytes, you end up with a practical
                      maximum MSS of 8148 bytes.  Some implementations limit
                      the maximum packet size to 2046 bytes, which gives you
                      2002 bytes left for the IP datagram; subtract from that
                      the IP and TCP header information and you end up with an
                      MSS of 1958 bytes.
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MacTCP Token Ring extension currently ships with the maximum size of the IP
datagram set to 2000. MacTCP 2.0 changes that to fall in line with the RFC
specification of 2002.

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Keywords: <None>

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