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SNA•ps: Macintosh Quadra Gateways

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TOPIC -----

I would like 1200 3270 sessions available for 600 Quadra 700 users. Using the SNA•ps 64-session gateway on a 4/16MB Token Ring card, how many gateways can I install in a Quadra 900? I know there are five slots in the Quadra 900, but can it support five 64-session gateways? Are there any performance implications?

DISCUSSION -----

There should be some significant performance issues and we don't recommend you do this. We assume you're on Ethernet, and the SNA traffic comes from Token Ring. Here are three points to consider:

- 1) It isn't good network design to put all 600 Macintosh computers and other devices on the same single zone. BUT you must do that effectively if you have all the 3270 client traffic pass through the same single Macintosh (5 Token Ring cards and one built-in Ethernet). If you divide the network up into pieces, then to optimize network traffic flow (that is, keep user's traffic in the zone where they live), you'll need 3-4 servers.
- 2) We expect that the single Ethernet card in a Quadra with five 64-session gateways probably can't keep up, especially if the users transfer files and print with SNA•ps 1.1. You can expect slow response.

This type of configuration isn't usually tested by SQA. It's tested with multiple Token Ring NB cards per Macintosh, but not running live to the mainframe. You could use TokenTalk to divide the load:

- Connect by wiring each Token Ring card to a different MAU, and
- Have IBM Token Ring bridges between the MAUs (or use IBM's newest router [6611] which will route AppleTalk).

Using TokenTalk should reduce the congestion in a single Macintosh since each MCP card will be running the SNA•ps gateway code and TokenTalk

independent of the other four cards. This could work well, but see point number 3 below.

- 3) The lack of redundancy in the event of a hung or failing server Macintosh is the biggest problem with using a single Macintosh for this many users. It would be very smart to have multiple servers, in different Token Rings. If the primary server wasn't available, the users could jump routers and find "public" sessions on other servers.
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