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Apple Internet Router: AURP Q&A (2/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article answers questions that relate to Apple Internet Router and AURP.

DISCUSSION -----

Q: What exactly is AURP?

A: AURP (AppleTalk Update-based Routing Protocol) specifies a standard way of connecting AppleTalk networks over point-to-point lines such as dialup modems and T-1 lines and of tunneling AppleTalk through foreign network systems, such as TCP/IP, X.25, OSI and DECnet. It was designed to improve AppleTalk for use on wide-area networks, including telecommunication links and campus-like backbone networks. It is an enhancement to the AppleTalk architecture that improves the efficiency and scalability of large AppleTalk internets, allowing users to easily interconnect remote Macintosh and PC workgroups.

Q: How does AURP reduce network traffic?

A: AURP provides for efficient routing over point-to-point lines or multipoint connections. As its name implies, AURP updates routing tables only when a change occurs in the network and does so by transmitting only the changed information, thereby greatly reducing traffic.

Q: Are AURP specifications publicly available?

A: Yes. Specifications have been distributed publicly at the Interop Trade shows and will be available through APDA (Apple's source for developer tools), and through the internet as an information RFC (Request for Comment).

Q: Are there other products available that implement AURP?

A: Various third parties have demonstrated functioning versions of AURP at

Interop in 1992. We cannot discuss unannounced products by any of the third parties.

Q: Was AURP developed as a replacement routing protocol for RTMP?

A: No. AURP was developed to complement the AppleTalk RTMP (Routing Table Maintenance Protocol). RTMP was primarily designed for LANs, while AURP was specifically designed to complement RTMP by providing wide-area capabilities.

Q: Why didn't Apple wait for the standards groups to set an AURP standard?

A: Our customers clearly indicated the need for an AURP-type solution as soon as possible. While Apple fully supports working with standards groups, such as the IETF, doing so greatly delays a product's time to market, often by several years. In order to supply customers with a timely solution, we choose to implement AURP in the Apple Internet Router product family.

Q: What is Apple doing to get AURP adopted as an industry standard?

A: Apple is presently evangelizing AURP, touting its performance and flexibility to customers, third party vendors and standards groups, such as the AppleTalk Network Forum (ANF) and the IETF.

Q: Are you working with the IETF?

A: Yes. We continue to work with the IETF on many issues, such as network management and AppleTalk over PPP (Point-to-Point protocol). We will also be publishing the AURP specification as an informational RFC (Request for Comment).

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