



# Tech Info Library

## TSSnet: DECnet for the Macintosh

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Security: Everyone

TSSnet: DECnet for the Macintosh

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### Overview

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TSSnet is DECnet for the Macintosh. The documentation is fairly straightforward, but installation is somewhat complex. The package includes three applications (NCP, NET Copy, and NET Mail) and a DECnet driver. The driver is copied into the System Folder, and the the Macintosh is reset to load the driver. DECnet is alive in background even when the Macintosh is in another application, permitting access from other systems at any time.

The documentation includes the source calls to implement DECnet in programs to allow true peer-to-peer program use.

### NCP

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The first time you run NCP, you must know the DECnet node number being assigned to the Macintosh. You must then contact Thursby Software to get a key for the system. The key sets the node number and is the copy protection for the software. On DECnet, the node number is assigned by the Network Manager when the system is first put onto DECnet. DECnet does not automatically assign nodes or broadcast node information. NCP is where you set up the line and circuit information and establish the node table for other DECnet nodes. The user can also restrict access to your node through a user name and password and toggle the network on and off.

### NET Copy

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NET Copy provide the basic functionality of DECnet End Nodes. The user can view remote directories, type remote files, or print files to a local printer. File transfer is supported for text files or image files. Image files are stored in MacBinary format and will transport to another Mac with full resouce and data forks.

### NET Mail

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NET mail, compatible with VMS Mail, lets the user create, read, and send mail. A new mail folder may also be created from within the program. Up to 32K can be written into a single memo, with larger documents converted automatically to text files on the disk.

#### Conclusion

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TSSnet makes DECnet available to the Macintosh. Its shortcomings are really the shortcomings of DECnet (such as having to define all the nodes to use them), and it will solve any objections large VAX sites might have to supporting additional protocols.

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Thursby recently announced support of the Kinetics EtherSC and EtherPort SE as well as terminal emulation through the DECnet connection.

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