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AppleTalk over T1 Lines

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Security: Everyone

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Some users have a Hayes InterBridge connected to AT&T System 75 PBXs to communicate to other, out-of-state sites' LocalTalk networks. The configuration:

LocalTalk to Hayes InterBridge -> AT&T over T1 to AT&T <- Hayes InterBridge to LocalTalk

This solution has worked reliably, but these users are interested in speeds greater than 19,200 baud. They want to know if they can get full LocalTalk 230.4K baud speed over their T1 connection, and what equipment will allow the higher bandwidth.

Ethernet is possible, of course, but might be too expensive.

Another possible solution -- not inexpensive, but perhaps less costly than switching over entirely to Ethernet -- is Network Systems' (formerly VitaLink Communications Corporation) products for T1 lines. A useful configuration might be:

LocalTalk <-> FastPath <-> VitaLink box <-T1-> VitaLink box <-> FastPath <-> LocalTalk

This uses Ethernet as the transport medium through the T1 connection, but the basic network remains LocalTalk.

There is more than one solution available, giving speed ranges from 64 kbps up to the full speed of the T1 circuit. The two determining factors are the cost of the hardware (faster being more expensive), and what else the T1 circuit is being used for. It is possible to use the entire bandwidth of the T1 circuit for the network connection.

In the configuration above, the T1 circuit resembles an Ethernet backbone to the LocalTalk-based networks. The FastPaths are necessary to bridge the

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Ethernet provided by the VitaLinks to the LocalTalk networks.

To locate a vendor's address and phone numbers, use the vendor name as a search string..

Article Change History:

14 July 1993 - Updated company names.

6 April 1989 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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