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Ethernet: Minimum Packet Lengths and cisco Routers

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TOPIC -----

What is the minimum length of an Ethernet packet?

Since AppleTalk frequently uses small packets for NBP, ZIP, and so forth, does it pad packets to this "minimum" length?

Are there any known interoperability issues with cisco routers, AppleTalk, and minimum length packets?

DISCUSSION -----

The IEEE 802.3 standard specifies that the minimum length of an Ethernet packet is 60 bytes. If the total length of a packet is less than 60 bytes, pad bytes must be added after the data to bring the packet size up to 60 bytes.

An additional four-byte cyclic-redundancy check (CRC) is appended to the end of the packet and is checked by the receiver to determine whether an error occurred.

Traffic less than 64 bytes in length (60 byte packet plus a four-byte CRC) is considered an error by cisco routers and is ignored.

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