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

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TOPIC -----

This article contains Apple Internet Router product related Questions and Answers.

DISCUSSION -----

Q: What did Apple introduce at Networld in Boston this January?

A: Apple introduced the Apple Internet Router product family. The new product line allows local and remote Macintosh computers or PC workgroups to easily interconnect. The new router software allows organizations to increase the size, performance, and manageability of their AppleTalk networks. It is also Apple's first implementation of the AppleTalk Update-based Routing Protocol (AURP), a new technology that significantly reduces network traffic over an internet.

Q: What is a router?

A: Routers are devices that can connect multiple networks, providing for two or more connections. Routers operate at Level 3 (network) of the ISO OSI model and are protocol sensitive, allowing a router to send data packets along alternate paths and "intelligently" decide how to best route data packets. Routers send data along the best available path based on traffic levels, availability, and the general status of wide-area connections.

Q: What are the products that make up this family?

A: Apple is introducing three Apple Internet Router products: a base routing software kit and two extension kits. The Basic Connectivity Package provides the core routing software and technology. Apple's two extension packages—the AppleTalk/IP Wide Area Extension and the AppleTalk/X.25 Wide Area Extension—provide wide area AppleTalk routing over TCP/IP and X.25 networks, respectively. The extension kits are

sold separately.

Q: Why is the AppleTalk/X25 Wide Area Extension product so much more expensive than the other router family products?

A: The AppleTalk/X25 Wide Area Extension product includes Router X.25 software and installer in addition to Apple's MacX25 server software. The price is derived from the combined cost of the router X.25 software and the MacX25 sever software.

Q: Do you need to purchase the Basic Connectivity Package in order to use Apple's X.25 or TCP/IP extension packages as well as other third-party extension products?

A: Yes. The Basic Connectivity Package provides the core routing software and technology on which the extension products build.

Q: How can I get more information or place an order?

A: These products will be available worldwide from Apple authorized resellers and in the United States: call The Apple Catalog at 1-800-795-1000.

Q: How does the new internet router product family differ from Apple's current internet router -- the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0?

A: The new router is a completely redesigned product with many capabilities beyond the 2.0 router, while still providing all the functionality of the 2.0 router. The new router provides both wide-area and local-area networking. Superior WAN connectivity is made possible by implementing a new technology -- called the AppleTalk Update-based Routing Protocol (AURP) -- which significantly reduces network traffic. It also provides support for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). The new router software also provides enhanced LAN support, routing data between industry standard LocalTalk, Ethernet, Token-Ring, and other network types.

Q: Will the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0 still be available after the new router products begin shipping?

A: No. The new Apple Internet Router product family replaces Apple's current router, the AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0.

Q: Is Apple providing upgrades for AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0 users?

A: Yes. Apple will provide software upgrades until June 12, 1993, with proof of purchase.

Q: What network types does the Apple Internet Router work on?

A: The Basic Connectivity package ships with support for AppleTalk over LocalTalk, Ethernet, and Token Ring networks, and (using AURP) over dial-up modems. The AppleTalk/IP extension ships with support for AppleTalk "tunneling" through TCP/IP (using AURP) over either Ethernet or Token Ring, and the AppleTalk/X.25 extensions supports X.25 over Apple's Serial/NB card. Third parties will be adding support for many other network types, such as FDDI and SMDS.

Q: Who are the third parties building extensions for the new router product family?

A: There are a variety of third-party companies building extensions for the Apple Internet Router product family, including Asante, Farallon Computing, Insignia, MultiAccess Computing, Neon Software, and Cabletron. There are also many companies that have not yet announced support for AURP, but are expected to do so in the near future. For detailed information of current solutions, see the Apple Internet Router Solutions Guide.

Q: What security features does it have?

A: The new router includes security options to protect networks from unauthorized use, including a router setup password, half-routing password/callback, and the device hiding and network number hiding features of AURP.

Q: What monitor and control features does it offer?

A: The new router has built-in SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) support which enables the router to be monitored from any SNMP-based network management console. It also provides a router log and reports network statistics.

Q: What is the significance of providing built-in support for SNMP?

A: SNMP is a widely-adopted industry standard for network management, which Apple has adopted as the core part of its network management strategy. Through SNMP, the setup and operation of the router can be monitored through any number of currently available third-party SNMP consoles. Use of SNMP also demonstrates Apple's continued commitment to standards.

Q: How do the new router products enhance local area connectivity?

A: The Apple Internet router can interconnect all types of AppleTalk networks, including LocalTalk, Ethernet, and Token Ring. This offers greater flexibility in choosing network media and topologies.

Q: What are the operating requirements of the software?

A: The Apple Internet Router software operates on all Macintosh computers with at least 4MB of memory, and System 7.0 or later. The software was designed for AppleTalk Phase 2 networks only.

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