Tech Info Library

DAL 1.3.5: VM/CMS ESA Connection (4/93)

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Security:       Everyone

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TOPIC -------------------------------------------------------------

I will be installing DAL 1.3.5 for VM/CMS on an ES/9000 mainframe with the
VM/ESA Operating System.  I have an installation of about 200 Macintosh
computers.  For host access I use Avatar's MacMainFrame via coax to a 3174
Unit Controller and I have to make the installation via this path.

Only one Unit Controller is available to make the connection and this unit
is configured as non-SNA.  It's this way because this is the controller
that attaches to the system console.

Here are my questions:

1) I have release 3.2 of Avatar MacMainFrame. I should have no problems
   accessing the non-SNA Control Unit because Avatar supports CUT, NLCA, and
   DFT, but is there a compatibility problem with Avatar MacMainFrame 3.2
   and DAL 1.3.5?

2) I also want to make a SNA•ps connection.  I've read DAL supports CUT,
   NLCA, and DFT access using MacDFT through the 3270mac network adapter.
   Does the SNA•ps 3270 driver support CUT and NLCA through the 3270mac
   network adapter?  I don't think it does, but I would like confirmation
   of this.

3) If CUT and NLCA access through the SNA•ps 3270 driver is not supported,
   can I make the connection through a SNA•ps gateway using the DALnet
   SNAps3270 network adapter via a non-SAN control unit?


DISCUSSION --------------------------------------------------------

There is more to this issue than just the questions you have asked.  Here
are the answers to your questions:
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1) DAL 1.3.5 does not work with MacMainFrame 3.2. That is a very old
   release and has not been supported by Avatar for quite some time. You
   need to get release 4.0.1 at least before you will be able to work with DAL
   1.3.5 successfully.

2) DAL supports the SNA•ps 3270 connection only through the DALnet
   SNAps3270 network adapter. This network adapter is only available in
   the DAL Client release 1.3.5 or greater. This connection uses the
   SNA•ps 3270 API and requires a SNA•ps 3270 gateway.

3) Both CUT and NLCA are usually single-session coax connections. It is
   not possible to run a gateway over a single session, non-SNA connection.
   DAL uses the SNA•ps 3270 API and that requires a SNA Gateway. So, no
   you can't put a SNA•ps gateway on this controller. You could use the
   SNA•ps 3270, not the GC (Gateway Client), product to show that the
   emulator works, but that will not work with DAL as it uses the SNA•ps
   3270 API -- the 3270 emulator does not use the 3270 API.

Now, for another issue: With VM/XA and VM/ESA (as opposed to VM/SP)
operating systems, IBM does not support the SQL command "Connect to
Database", which DAL does support -- as it is available in VM/SP systems.

Since DAL supports this command, there is a possibility that the
installation of the DAL Server could run into a problem when doing the SQL
Prep of the Access Module (page 7 on the DAL Server for VM Installation
Guide). If the SQL Prep process takes exception to the "Connect to
Database" command, simply comment those commands out in the CL1DBI01 TEXT
module and rerun the SQL Prep process.

Regardless of whether the SQL Prep process has a problem with the inclusion
of that command, there is work that needs to be done to allow users to
access the database when the installation is complete.

The Environment file (ENV DAL) must be updated to have the first line,
SSID= changed to:

    SSID=@SQL

The use of "@SQL" is a key to the DAL Server to NOT attempt to issue the
"Connect to Database" command.

It is necessary that the SSID= field in the environment file be changed
because commercial applications like ClearAccess™ require the user to
select a database name from a list. If the actual database name were
listed, and the user selected it, DAL would attempt to issue the command
that is not supported and the user would never be able to connect.

It is also possible to use a null value ('' -- quotes with no space inside)
instead of the @SQL value. This will only work where the application
supports the entry of the database name and supports a null value.

For example, if the user used the DAL Tester, then his Open Database

command could use either @SQL or a null as the value of the database name:

```
    Open SQLDS dbms;
    Open database '';
```

or:
```
    Open SQLDS dbms;
    Open database '@SQL';
```

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