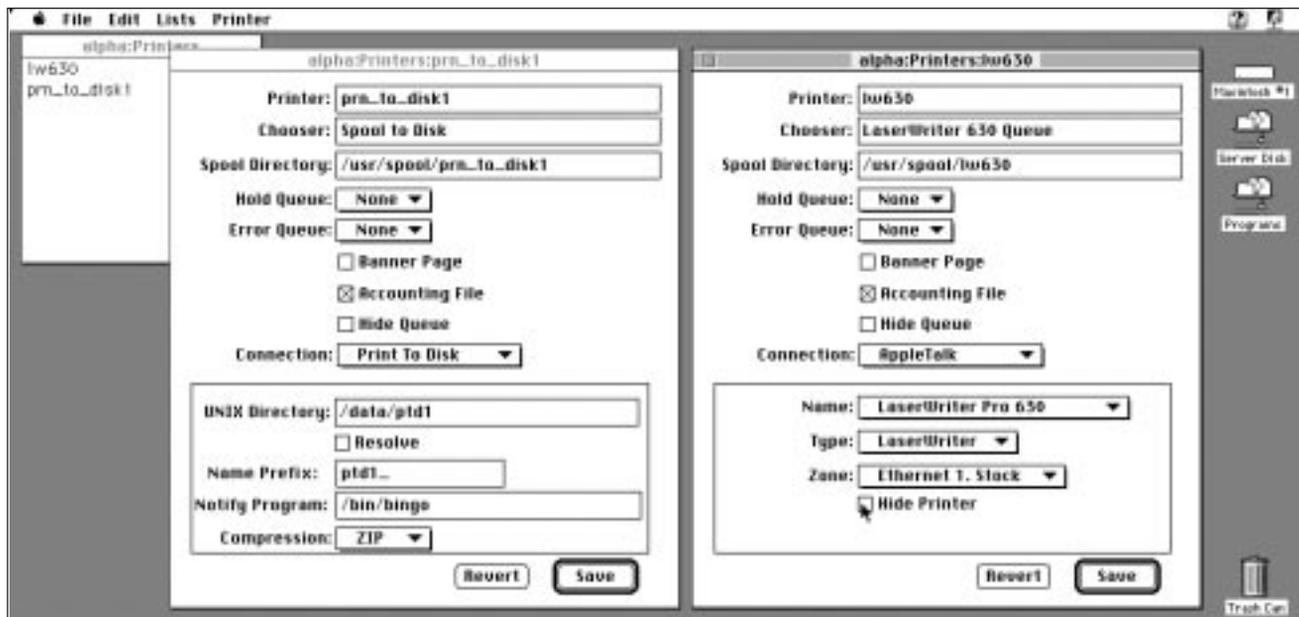


EtherShare 2.5

Highest Performance Server – Questions & Answers



Helios EtherShare is a worldwide de-facto standard for Unix/RISC-based AppleTalk server. It is well-known for its reliability, performance, flexibility, and ease-of-use. The EtherShare 2.5 release offers significant advantages with regard to file server performance and print spooler functionality as well as further improvements and new features in many areas.

NetDoubler server acceleration is integrated in EtherShare 2.5 by default. This allows Apple Macintosh equipped with Asanté's NetDoubler client software to really utilize faster network media like Fast Ethernet. It boosts productivity especially when people work with large files – e.g. scanner operators storing color images, PhotoShop users retouching high resolution images, or QuarkXPress users collecting data for output.

EtherShare automatically recognizes whether a client can be accelerated by NetDoubler or not. There is no special server set-up necessary. Any number of clients as well as multiple server network interfaces are automatically accelerated. One can gradually add faster segments to existing networks and re-design networks for

great performance with minimum cost impact.

On the printing side, the new EtherShare 2.5 supports PPD files for spool queues to exploit special printer features, offers hold and error queues for easy post-processing of print jobs, and allows load balancing between multiple output devices. EtherShare 2.5 also provides more detailed print job information. By means of internal optimization, the overall server load when accepting large jobs from multiple sources is further reduced.

All EtherShare services are tuned. New services like clock synchronisation or sending messages to users are included. Installation, configuration and management is further improved.

EtherShare 2.5 acts as platform for the new EtherShare OPI 2.0 and its OPI and color management features.

Helios supports a variety of Unix/RISC-based platforms with absolutely equal feature set, identical, easy-to-use administration, and same release date. This gives Helios customers great flexibility to choose the right server for their needs, budgets, and future plans.

Helios – Smart Ideas for Better Networking

Features & Benefits

Performance & Reliability

- ✓ Fast with standard AppleTalk
- ✓ Extremely fast with Asanté NetDoubler – over Fast Ethernet over 6 MByte/s to one Macintosh client and up to 17 MByte/s to the server
- ✓ Makes best use of Unix power incl. multi processor configurations
- ✓ Conforms to AppleTalk specs

State-of-the-art Spooler

- ✓ Handles largest print jobs
- ✓ Error and hold queues
- ✓ Load balancing
- ✓ Support of PPD files
- ✓ PostScript font server
- ✓ Detailed logging and accounting

Ease of Use

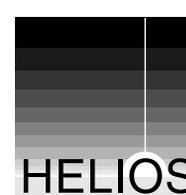
- ✓ Macintosh look-and-feel to user
- ✓ Fast, convenient server installation
- ✓ Easy administration via Macintosh

Flexibility

- ✓ Runs on many Unix/RISC servers
- ✓ Supports Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, Token-Ring, FDDI incl. routing
- ✓ Terminal access and mail services
- ✓ Scales well for small & large sites

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System Requirements

Server

- One of the following Unix systems: SunSPARC Solaris 1 or 2, IBM RS/6000 AIX, HP-UX, Silicon Graphics Irix, Data General AViiON or Intel AViiON, Digital Alpha Unix, Apple Network Server, or other PowerPC systems under AIX 4.1 e.g. from Motorola
- Approximately 7 MB hard disk space
- 16 MB RAM; 512 KB RAM per active client, resp. 800 KB RAM per NetDoubler client
- One activated network adapter; for best performance, use Fast Ethernet or FDDI interfaces in server and multiple adapters for load balancing

Client

- Apple Macintosh or compatible computer
- File and print services with System 6.0.3 or newer; other services with System 7.1 or newer
- NetDoubler acceleration with MacOS 7.5.x, Open Transport 1.1.1, and Asanté NetDoubler client 1.3 or newer. The NetDoubler client must be purchased separately and is available from Asanté Technologies Inc., <http://www.asante.com> as stand-alone product or as part of Asanté's networking cards for Macintosh.
- DOS/Windows PC with AppleShare client software; optional Helios PCShare for PC clients

Network

- AppleTalk – LocalTalk, Ethernet, Token-Ring, Fast E'net, FDDI, ARA – between server&client
- For NetDoubler acceleration there must also be a TCP/IP link between server and client
- Server FDDI link to Sun Solaris with Interphase or Network Peripherals adapter
- Server Token-Ring or FDDI with IBM adapter
- Server FDDI link with DG AViiON adapter
- Server FDDI link with SGI adapter
- Server FDDI link with Digital TurboChannel
- Fast Ethernet adapter usually work regardless of server make. Please check with Helios partner.

Product Availability and Installation

Product Availability

- EtherShare 2.5 is in customer beta test since CeBIT'97 mid of March. Final availability is expected in May/June time frame.
- An update to EtherShare 2.5 will be offered as retail product. Customers with an EtherShare software update service agreement will receive it automatically and without further charges.

Server Installation

- EtherShare 2.5 is easily installed from CD-ROM.
- When updating an EtherShare server, all configuration and user data is preserved. A new activation key is required. PPD info should be assigned to existing spool queues with EtherShare Admin.
- EtherShare automatically recognizes whether a client can be NetDoubler-accelerated.

Client Installation

- EtherShare server can be used without special drivers for Apple Macintosh.
- NetDoubler acceleration requires purchase and installation of Asanté's NetDoubler client.

Server Administration

Remotely from Macintosh with EtherShare Admin

Questions and Answers

Q: What's new in EtherShare 2.5?

A: EtherShare 2.5 offers improvements and new features in nearly all areas: file services, print spooling, AppleTalk routing, mail frontend, administration. It also comes with a new time server and offers further improved co-operation with DOS/Windows and Unix users. EtherShare 2.5 sets new standards in file server performance with its built-in EtherShare NetDoubler acceleration.

Q: When should I update my EtherShare server?

A: The new EtherShare 2.5 is required for EtherShare OPI 2.0.

But even if you are not interested in OPI you may want to update your server just because of the gains in performance, the advanced spooling capabilities and the new features.

Q: Do I have to upgrade my Macintosh clients?

A: In most cases, no.

To exploit NetDoubler acceleration you have to install Asanté NetDoubler client software which might require a MacOS update.

EtherShare's file and print services are available to all Macintosh running System 6.0.3 or newer. In order to use the other services your Macintosh or compatible should run System 7.1 or a newer MacOS.

All Macintosh applications which come with EtherShare 2.5 are "fat binary". They run on 68K Macintosh, but also PowerPC native on newer, PowerPC-based Macintosh or MacOS compatibles.

Q: What are the file server improvements?

A: Most important, EtherShare becomes much faster in many aspects:

- Built-in EtherShare NetDoubler gives full Ethernet speed to the Macintosh and over 6 MByte/s over Fast Ethernet. The aggregate server throughput over two Fast Ethernet adapters is up to 17 MByte/s. In addition, overall server CPU load is reduced, too.
- Vastly improved, really fast "Find File by Name"
- "Fast Finder Copy" as in AShare Workstation 3.6

Other file server improvements are:

- APIs for future Helios Unix utilities to copy, move, or rename Macintosh files correctly under Unix together with all Finder and resource information
- Optional Unix locking of Macintosh files to be used together with PCShare or Unix multi-user apps
- AFP/RPC record lock interfaces to be used by EtherShare OPI and other applications
- AFP messages to any connected client either sent with EtherShare Admin or from Unix

Q: What about printing?

A: EtherShare 2.5 remains powerful, but simple to use with friendly Macintosh user interface for print queue configuration and spooler management. It comes with many new printing features:

- Support of PPD files per spool queue to make use of special printer features
- Hold and Error Queues to hold all or all erroneous print jobs together with detailed logging info. This allows easy post-processing or trouble shooting.

- Print-to-Disk Queues with convenient configuration and set-up by means of EtherShare Admin
- Load Balancing. One spool queue can print to the next available printer of a group of output devices.
- Improved Macintosh status messages during print-out and direct reporting of errors
- Optimization to reduce server load when jobs are accepted from PAP print clients

Q: What's new in the AppleTalk area?

A: EtherShare 2.5 now configures automatically all available appropriate network interfaces for AppleTalk, not just the first one.

- Character-based, menu-driven "netconf" program allows easy AppleTalk router set-up under Unix.
- Apple's "AFP over TCP" which is announced, but not yet shipping, will be provided in the future.

Q: What's new in Helios Mail?

A: Helios Mail offers more customization, supports vacation messages and includes a POP 3 server

Q: How did administration improve?

A: EtherShare Admin offers convenient server administration from any Macintosh in the network.

- All new features can be set by EtherShare Admin.
- A new time server allows easy synchronisation of Macintosh clocks with a central server clock incl. daylight-saving time settings.
- EtherShare Admin also allows to manage the new features in EtherShare OPI 2.0.

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