AppleTalk Internet Router

Overview

The AppleTalk® Internet Router lets you increase the size and improve the performance and manageability of your AppleTalk network system. It allows Apple-Talk networks such as LocalTalk, EtherTalk, and TokenTalk to be interconnected to form an internet. The router moves data from one network to another transparently so that the internet functions like a single network. This means that users can share files and printers across the internet, as well as send and receive mail, in the same way that they access these resources on a single network.

 A key component of the AppleTalk network system, the AppleTalk Internet Router offers room to grow for even the largest networking installations. Features such as extended addressing and improved zone-based-access to internet resources let network professionals build for the future.

As with other Apple® Macintosh® products, the AppleTalk Internet Router is easy to use. Even a network novice can have it running in minutes and begin to make use of its powerful features.
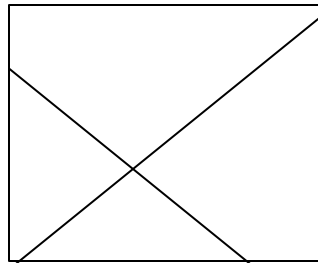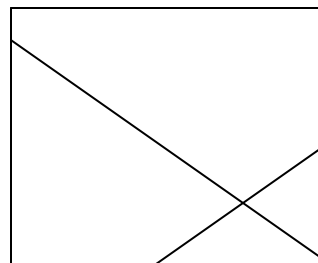
Features

Benefits

Features	Benefits
· Background routing capability	· Allows the Macintosh running the router software to run other services in the foreground.
· Up to eight network ports per router	· Allows interconnection of up to eight networks per Macintosh, enabling flexible network topologies and optimum use of the Macintosh serving as a router.
· Up to 1,024 networks per internet	· Provides room for growth for even the largest network systems.
· Extended network addressing of up to 16 million nodes	· Supports large network systems that use data link bridges for local and wide area networking.
· Zone naming on a per-node basis	· Streamlines the use of the Chooser in large networks.
· Network independent	· Supports LocalTalk, EtherTalk, and TokenTalk. · Lets you choose the best network for each environment and then connect multiple networks to form an integrated network system.
· Monitoring of router traffic and errors	· Provides an effective internetwork management tool.
· Easy setup and operation	· Lets even novice network users benefit from this powerful software.
· Dynamic internet route maintenance	· Requires no additional administration after setup.
· Isolation of local traffic	· Increases internet performance by keeping local traffic at the local network level--isolating it from the internet.
· Redundant topologies	· Allows AppleTalk internets to use alternate routes automatically in the event of a failure in the primary route.
· Report facility	· Allows router statistics and routing tables to be printed and logged for network management purposes.

Support of Large Networks

The AppleTalk Internet Router lets users build large internets that span a company or campus. An AppleTalk internet can support as many as 16 million devices (nodes). These can be distributed over as many as 1,024 interconnected networks, or can be allocated to one large network such as those that use data link bridges to interconnect local area networks.
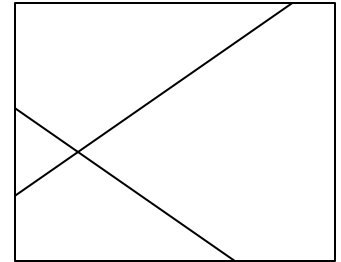
Easy Setup

The AppleTalk Internet Router identifies all network connections installed on the Macintosh serving as the router. You simply enter a network number range for each network you want to interconnect. Zone names can be defined to streamline directory services on large internets. The rest is automatic, because the Apple-Talk Internet Router dynamically communicates with other AppleTalk routers to build a table of the entire internet. Users can then view and access resources throughout the internet.

Improved Internet Reliability

The AppleTalk Internet Router can be used to improve internet reliability. Most network problems remain isolated to a single network. By using a redundant route topology, internet traffic can be rerouted in case of a failure in a particular network.

Flexibility

The router lets network planners fine-tune their AppleTalk systems by isolating local traffic from internet traffic, and by providing a choice of topology and network performance to accommodate the most demanding network environments.

The Router Environment

AppleTalk Internet Router software runs in the background on a Macintosh computer, allowing the router to share the same Macintosh as the Apple-Share® File and Print Servers, as well as third-party mail servers. The router uses between 120K and 160K of system memory, depending on the number of networks in the internet.

Media Independence

The AppleTalk Internet Router can interconnect all types of AppleTalk networks, including LocalTalk, EtherTalk, and TokenTalk, to offer the greatest flexibility in choice of media and topology. The AppleTalk Internet Router can be used to provide transparent access to the LaserWriter® and ImageWriter® II printers from EtherTalk and TokenTalk networks.

Direct Routing

The improved routing protocol of AppleTalk Phase 2 sends data directly to the router along the shortest path to the destination, increasing internet performance.

Monitoring and Control

Through the router desk accessory, you can display various windows that let you monitor activity and network statistics on the router, view an active routing table of the entire internet, change the router setup information, or print the contents of the setup and administrative displays.

Zone Multicast

Zone Multicast, provided on EtherTalk and TokenTalk networks, allows a message to be sent to all members of a particular zone without disturbing other nodes on the network. Zone Multicast improves network performance by reducing traffic overhead caused by broadcasts.

Upgrade Path

AppleTalk internets can include AppleTalk Internet Routers as well as third-party routers that meet the AppleTalk Phase 2 specification. An upgrade utility is included with the AppleTalk Internet Router so that it can communicate with older routers during the upgrade process. Also, during the upgrade to AppleTalk Phase 2, the AppleTalk Internet Router allows nodes using older versions of EtherTalk to communicate with nodes using EtherTalk Version 2.0. These features allow an incremental upgrade path to AppleTalk Phase 2 where needed.

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System Requirements	To use the AppleTalk Internet Router, you'll need: · A Macintosh Plus, SE, SE/30, II, IIX, or IICX personal computer	· Macintosh System Software Version 6.0.3 or later	· All necessary network interface cards, cabling, and software for each network connection
Ordering Information	AppleTalk Internet Router	Order No. M0705	With your order, you'll receive: · AppleTalk Internet Router software · Macintosh System Software 6.0.3 · *AppleTalk Internet Router Administrator's Guide*