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EtherShare: Implements AFP/PAP on UNIX Machines

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TOPIC-----

Do you know of software that can make my UNIX machines act as servers in AppleTalk Internets?

DISCUSSION -----

Yes, the German system house Helios Software GmbH has a file server product named EtherShare.

EtherShare implements an AFP fileserver and PAP printserver on UNIX machines in Ethernet. It supports the well-known AppleTalk and the enhanced AppleTalk Phase 2. You decide during the boot process what AppleTalk version to use. It is also capable of routing AppleTalk packets between several Ethernets, when the UNIX machine has more than one Ethernet interface. EtherShare is installed with very few UNIX commands. This means you can do server administration totally from a Macintosh in the typical Macintosh style.

Currently Supported UNIX Machines

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- Sun 3/xx, Sun 4/xx, and Sun 386i under Sun OS 4.0 or higher
 - Sony NEWS 1500, 1700, 1800, and 1900 (as of September, 1989, AppleTalk Phase 2, because NEWS's Ethernet driver does not support the IEEE standard for MultiCast).

AFP Functionality

EtherShare fileserver can be used by all AppleTalk clients without any changes in the client AppleShare software. These clients include Macintosh, Apple IIIGS, and MS-DOS PCs. It also supports all security and locking mechanisms, like scrambling of passwords, volume password, MS-DOS short names, drop folders, and so on. EtherShare can be used by up to 200 users simultaneously, depending on the server machine. AppleShare clients can access UNIX files if allowed by the administrator. Likewise, UNIX applications can access files stored by AppleShare clients.

PAP Functionality

EtherShare implements a PAP printserver in AppleTalk with as many print queues as you want. You can print to PostScript printers (which are directly, asynchronously attached to the UNIX machine) or to other networked PAP print services in the AppleTalk Internet. EtherShare also lets UNIX applications print to PAP printers, like networked LaserWriters.

Installation and Administration

It takes very few UNIX commands to install EtherShare. The administration of AFP and PAP servers is done from any Macintosh in the AppleTalk Internet, in a manner similar to Apple's AppleShare admin program. However, you can administer several EtherShare file servers simultaneously and easily exchange users, user groups, and their privileges between different EtherShare servers.

EtherShare APIs

Helios provides a full set of programming interfaces. For example, you can write UNIX applications which respect the AFP-locking.

For more details, search the Tech Info Library under "Helios Software."
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