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ABS Tech Note: SNA•ps13 Admin Trace v1.1.1 (4/93)

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TOPIC -----

This technical note discusses the fixes and outstanding feature limitations of SNA•ps Admin v1.1.1 Trace facility. It also provides some hints on how to get the most out of the tracing facility.

DISCUSSION -----

Introduction

The SNA•ps Admin v1.1.1 Trace facility addresses two of the problems in the previous version: BIND type Decoding and the Coax Trace Decoding. In addition, the Trace facility is now faster.

Problems fixed

- BIND type Decoding: The BIND responses were sometimes displayed with the wrong LU type. This problem has been fixed and the BIND response now displays the correct LU type.
- Coax Trace Decoding: On a coax gateway, the DVINFO message was improperly decoded as if it had a TH and RH SNA header on the data. The DVINFO message is now decoded correctly.

Outstanding problems

- Truncated Data: The Trace data is truncated at 256 bytes. This is a problem when you are running in an environment that has larger BTU sizes and you are interested in the data near the end of the frame.
- Lost Frames: Because of the limit on buffer space available on the gateway machine, trace data can be lost. This occurs when data is arriving at the gateway faster than SNA•ps Admin can display it on the screen or store it in a file. The gateway can only buffer 32K bytes of trace data before losing data.
- V25bis Info: Some V25bis autodial commands will not appear in the line trace.

How to make the trace work better for you: "Helpful Hints from Steve"

The trace loses frames because SNA•ps Admin can't copy the trace data from the gateway as fast as it arrives on the line. The gateway has a limited capacity to buffer the data. The faster SNA•ps Admin can copy the data from the gateway, the less data will be lost.

There are several things that you can do to speed up SNA•ps Admin:

- Run SNA•ps Admin on the Gateway machine: Running SNA•ps Admin on the same machine as the gateway improves performance because the data does not need to traverse the AppleTalk network.
- Close Windows: When running the trace, you should close the SNA•ps Admin Network Gateway Status window, and the Gateway Status window. Keeping these windows open and up to date reduces the amount of time SNA•ps Admin can devote to copying the trace data.
- Shut down other Applications on the machine: Having any other application open on the machine will slow down SNA•ps Admin.

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