NOVELL.

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Dear Kinetics User,

With your purchase, you have received the latest version of our K-Star™ gateway software, FastPath™ Manager application and a new edition of the *FastPath Administrator's Guide*. The new version of K-Star, Version 8.0, now supports AppleTalk Phase 2 and the network management protocol SNMP, and maintains all of the features and protocols of our past versions. Some of the protocols and features that K-Star provides are:

Protocols	Features
AppleTalk Phase 1	*Transition Bridge software**
*AppleTalk Phase 2**	Zone Security
TCP/IP	Split addressing capability
DECnet	KIP style routing
*SNMP**	LAN Ranger 1.0

The asterisks (*) indicate new features in K-Star, Version 8.0. In addition, the "FastPath Manager", Version 5.1 application is provided for administration and configuration. The new *FastPath Administrator's Guide* provides a clear, comprehensive explanation of Macintosh networking and completely replaces our older documentation.

Below is an explanation of the new K-Star features and how they might affect your network.

AppleTalk Phase 2

With AppleTalk Phase 2, Apple Computer has provided extensions to their AppleTalk network system that allows Ethernet to support multiple zones and a greatly increased number of devices. While the AppleTalk network system previously limited the number of devices on Ethernet to 254, AppleTalk Phase 2 allows more than 16,000,000 devices. See Chapter 2 in the *FastPath Administrator's Guide* for more information.

How does it affect my network?

For the most part, the implementation differences between AppleTalk Phase 1 and AppleTalk Phase 2 are transparent to the enduser.

There are no hardware changes required for the FastPath 4 to support AppleTalk Phase 2. A FastPath configured for Phase 2 allows your Ethernet to be logically divided up into multiple zones. Phase 2 Macintoshes on Ethernet can select a zone for their system from a list of zone names in the Macintosh Control Panel.

The other difference you might find is that AppleTalk Phase 1 and AppleTalk Phase 2 devices on Ethernet cannot "see" each other. If you plan to support both AppleTalk Phase 1 and AppleTalk Phase 2 devices, the network administrator should be using the Transition Bridge software option included with K-Star, Version 8.0.

What if I have a FastPath 1, 2 or 3 on my network?

We've always been careful to maintain backward compatibility. Since AppleTalk Phase 2 exceeds the capacities of all but the FastPath 4, we're providing a couple of ways to protect your investment in earlier FastPaths.

- Trade in your FastPath 1, 2 or 3 -- Excelan continues to offer a $1000 credit toward the purchase of a new FastPath 4 in exchange for a FastPath 1, 2 or 3.

- Use the Transition Bridge Software -- Earlier FastPaths can participate in a Phase 2 environment. A FastPath 4 executing the Transition Bridge software will route both Phase 1 and Phase 2 packets and provide full connectivity throughout the upgrade process.

What if I have an EtherPort card?

To make the transition as easy as possible, we are shipping both Phase 2 and Phase 1 software with all new EtherPort products. All current EtherPort customers may obtain a free copy of the appropriate installation software, along with new installation instructions, by contacting Technical Support at 408-473-8700.

SNMP Network Management Support

K-Star, Version 8.0 supports the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) and a Kinetics FastPath Management Information Base (MIB). This provides a standardized mechanism for accessing network management data in the gateway. See Appendix D in the *FastPath Administrator's Guide* for more information.

Transition Bridge Software

With AppleTalk Phase 2, K-Star, Version 8.0 includes our Transition Bridge software option, which allows AppleTalk Phase 1 and Phase 2 devices to operate concurrently within the same internet. When the Transition Bridge is activated, the FastPath is able to simultaneously route both AppleTalk Phase 1 and Phase 2 packets. It will also route between Phase 1 and Phase 2 networks. Transition Bridge software runs on the FastPath 4, and is an option with K-Star, Version 8.0 for providing full connectivity throughout the upgrade process.

At this time, LAN Ranger, Version 1.0, does not support AppleTalk Phase 2. Future versions of LAN Ranger will support AppleTalk Phase 2 and the network management protocol SNMP.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact our Technical Support department at 408-473-8700. If you would like additional copies of K-Star, Version 8.0, or the FastPath Administrator's Guide, they are available as a kit for $85 and may be ordered by contacting us at 1-800-EXCELAN (1-800-392-3526).

Product Marketing

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