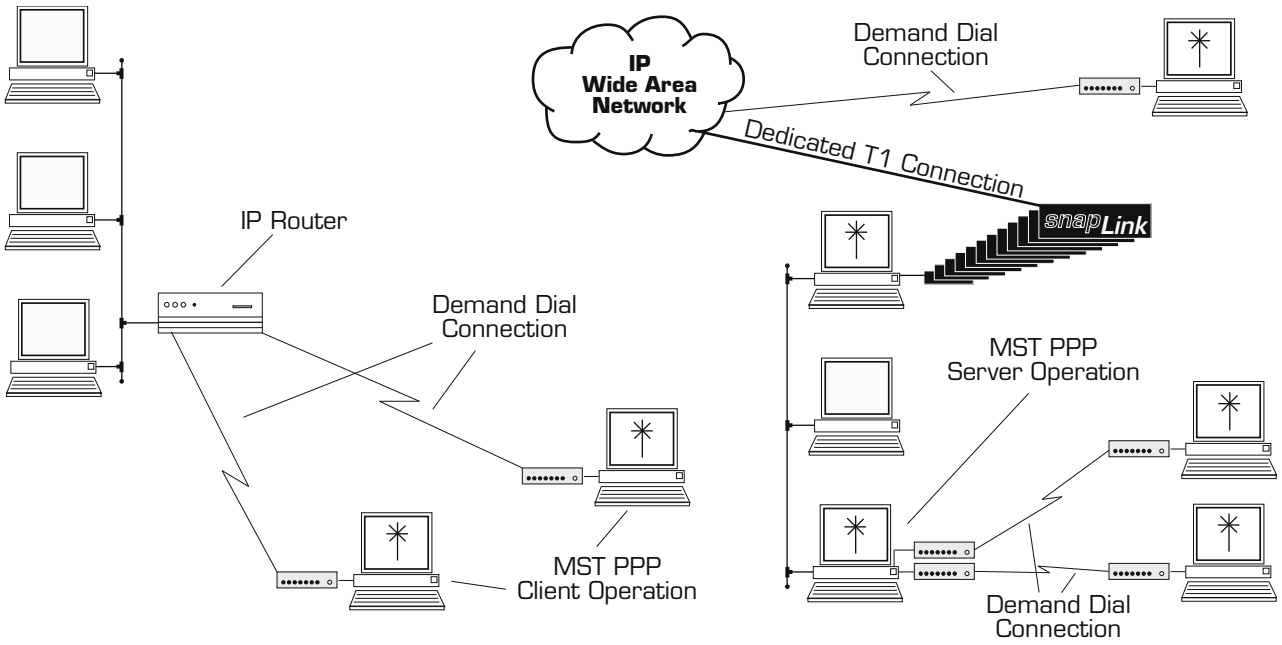
PPP Communications Software



Morning Star Technologies, Inc.

The Morning Star Advantage

Morning Star PPP products are designed to provide the customer with a reliable package that can be configured as either a client or server for wide area TCP/IP communications. This means that a single workstation running Morning Star PPP can act as an IP terminal server or router to a number of remote users. The same system can simultaneously initiate a call to another location or network, routing user IP packets to the remote destination. The unique software design permits fast and efficient product migration, adding new UNIX™ systems quickly to the increasing number of platforms Morning Star currently supports. High performance, efficient, low-cost communication products— that's the Morning Star advantage.

Why PPP?

PPP is the functional replacement for Serial Line IP (SLIP), described as "A Nonstandard for Transmission of IP Datagrams Over Serial Lines" in RFC 1055. PPP was developed and has been adopted as the Internet standard correcting many of the deficiencies in SLIP such as address negotiation, link level error correction and synchronous support for high speed communications. Most IP network providers are now installing PPP Points-Of-Presence (POPs), updating their services to the new standard. This increase in service providers has established a cost effective transport mechanism for corporate information exchange world wide. Many companies use these IP services to send voice, video and graphic images to workstations with multimedia capabilities quickly and efficiently. Companies are finding increased productivity by providing their work forces with home workstations for telecommuting. The Morning Star PPP solution gives these remote users the same environment and tools they use at the workplace. PPP enables wide area extensions to Local Area Network (LAN) based TCP/IP networks via on-demand service over ordinary phone lines. Existing TCP/IP applications like telnet and rlogin operate over PPP transparently, so that many users on the LAN will be unaware of their connection to remote locations. PPPs link level error correction, allows it to work reliably with IP facilities like NFS that provide no error correction scheme of their own. The product operates through the standard asynchronous system serial port and works with many modems available on the market today. PPP also operates with some manufacturers' systems whose serial ports support synchronous communications, or with the Morning Star SnapLink™ high-speed serial interface supporting line speeds up to T1.

Internet Routing

Any UNIX host on the LAN can operate as a communications gateway for other hosts on the network. Morning Star's packet filtering option enables the gateway machine to regulate in-bound or out-bound IP traffic being transmitted. Unlike network routers that require expensive dedicated lines, Morning Star's PPP on-demand dialing can establish a connection when traffic warrants and take it down when not needed, saving valuable company resources. The logging facility enables system administrators to monitor network traffic based on packet type and destination. Since the users on the local network are using the native TCP/IP services, no special training is required.

Morning Star PPP Features

Morning Star's fast queueing facility gives interactive users priority over file transfers or other background tasks. This is accomplished by using separate IP queues regulated by packet type for optimal performance. Fast queueing, combined with TCP header compression, provide the highest throughput and performance possible. Using Morning Star's flexible configuration scheme enables the customer to easily customize their package to accommodate any communication requirements. System administrators can easily regulate IP traffic from LAN to LAN or out into the network. The Morning Star PPP package is based on RFC's 1144, 1171 and 1172. Contact Morning Star Technologies for a complete list of product interoperability and supported UNIX systems.

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