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DAL Server for AS/400: Basic Features and Benefits

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the basic features and benefits of the DAL server for the AS/400.

DISCUSSION -----

There are several DAL servers that run on IBM mainframe systems and access under TSO or VTAM the DB2 DBMS. There is also a DAL server to accessing SQL/DS under VM/CMS. The DAL server for the AS/400 uses a C-Language based server patterned after the DAL UNIX server. The DAL 400 server accesses relational and flat database files that are running in the IBM-supplied SQL DBMS, referred to as SQL/400. The AS/400 operating system (OS/400) has SQL/400 executables built-in, to allow access to SQL/400 databases. DAL does not require the customer install the separate IBM-supplied SQL/400 licensed program, because it can use the OS/400 supplied executables. If a customer wishes to exercise better maintenance control over database files (update), then it is recommended the customer purchase the IBM-supplied SQL/400 licensed program.

The DAL 400 server can only access the AS/400 using SNA APPC gateways. These gateways are Apple SNA•ps gateways, which support APPC communication over SDLC or Token Ring physical links.

When the DAL server is installed on the AS/400 and the APPC SNA•ps gateway is operational, a Macintosh DAL client application will be presented with the same interface as all other DAL server connections. A desktop query of an SQL/400 database will have the same "look and feel" as accessing Rdb on a DEC VAX machine.

The benefit to AS/400 users will be especially significant if they also must access database information on other host platforms. The same client

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application and DAL client software can easily access data, the same way, on different host machines, regardless of host DBMS.

The potential marketplace for the DAL AS/400 product is quite large: the installed base of AS/400s is over 150,000 at the end of 1992 -- and growing steadily. AS/400 machines are commonly found in K-12 education accounts, medium to large business, and higher education campuses.

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