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Open Transport 1.1: Availability and Distribution Q & A (4/97)

Revised: 4/3/97
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 4 March 1996
Article Reviewed/Updated: 02 April 1997

TOPIC -----

This article is the Reference Q & A (questions and answers) on availability and distribution of Open Transport 1.1.

DISCUSSION -----

Question: What is the current version of Open Transport, and what are its key features?

Answer: Open Transport v1.1.2 is the current release of Open Transport. This release is an update to Open Transport v1.1, to address the most pressing customer requests, in advance of the next feature release of Open Transport (currently planned as OT 1.5 - see Future Directions). Open Transport v1.1.1 includes the following updates and new features as compared to the earlier Open Transport 1.1 release:

- now also supports the Performa 5200, 5300, 6200, and 6300 systems;
- includes internal changes to minimize memory fragmentation resulting from dynamic loading and unloading of TCP/IP;
- includes changes to the TCP/IP DNR for inter-operability with sites using the load-balancing name daemon;
- includes changes for support of the upcoming Open Transport/PPP release;
- includes all bug fixes available to date.

Open Transport v1.1 is the version which comes with System 7.5.3. This general release is recommended for all supported Mac OS systems, and includes the following updates and new features as compared to the earlier Open Transport 1.0.x releases:

- now also supports 68030 and 68040 Mac OS systems,
- now also supports PowerPC Mac OS systems with NuBus,
- now also supports NuBus, SCSI, and CommSlot network interface adapters,

- offers tuning to optimize performance of high speed datalinks,
- offers tuning to support multiple client, multithreaded server applications,
- includes support for multinode and multihomed operation of AppleTalk protocols,
- adds support for raw packet access and promiscuous mode, to enable the development of Open Transport-ready network analyzers and other network management utilities,
- recognizes a significantly expanded selection of MacTCP dial-up network extensions (mdevs),
- allows reconnection of a dial-up TCP/IP session without reloading networking and without system restart,
- provides display of the datalink Media Access Control address for Ethernet and token ring networks,
- provides user notification in the event duplicate AppleTalk or TCP/IP addresses are established,
- automatically converts users' existing AppleTalk and MacTCP setting to Open Transport configuration files during installation,
- includes improved compatibility with Apple Remote Access 2.0.1,
- includes improved compatibility with a wider range of DHCP servers,
- provides a basis for future support for PPP-based AppleTalk and TCP/IP remote networking,
- provides a basis for future support for modem and ISDN communications devices,
- includes support for Mac OS system software System 7.5.3,
- includes support for the creation of a "universal system folder",
- includes support for the Network Software Selector utility to provide easy transition from classic to Open Transport networking on Mac OS systems supporting both,
- offers improved Balloon Help text for System 7 users,
- includes all bug fixes available to date.

Question: How is Open Transport v1.1 available?

Answer: Open Transport v1.1 is available through a broad range of distribution channels:

- as a no-charge upgrade to customers with existing MacTCP volume license software maintenance agreements;
- as a no-charge upgrade to customers with existing system software volume license software maintenance agreements;
- as a component of Mac OS system software release System 7.5.3;
- as a component of Mac OS system software update System 7.5 System Update 2.0;
- as a retail software product in single-user software package;
- through an OEM redistribution licensing program from Apple Software Licensing,
- bundled with Apple and third party applications software that are Open

Transport-ready,

- from select Apple-licensed publishers and Internet Service Providers.

Question: How will volume license software maintenance customers receive Open Transport?

Answer: A master copy of the Open Transport software and documentation will automatically be mailed to the contact of record for customers with active MacTCP or Mac OS System Software maintenance contracts.

Question: How could a customer receive a copy of System 7.5.3?

Answer: System 7.5.3 will be pre-installed on Mac OS systems beginning in first half calendar 1996. System 7.5.3 will also become available as a shrink-wrap retail product in first half calendar 1996.

Question: How could a customer receive a copy System 7.5 System Update 2.0?

Answer: System 7.5 System Update 2.0 is available through a variety of channels, including:

- On the Internet at the following sites:
 - Worldwide Web: <<http://www.info.apple.com/swupdates>>
 - ftp: <<ftp://ftp.info.apple.com/>>
- On America Online, use keyword: applecomputer
- On CompuServe, use GO: APLSUP
- Through Apple User Groups,
- From the Apple Order Center, in floppy or CD update kits. The update is available at no charge plus \$13 shipping and handling. Call U.S. 800-293-6617, ext. 984 to order.

Question: What is the part number and pricing for the Open Transport single-user software package?

Answer: In the U.S. order number M4252Z/A; the estimated retail price is \$39.

Question: Will Open Transport be localized for non-English speaking countries?

Answer: As a part of Mac OS System 7.5.3, Open Transport will be localized around the world. Generally speaking, within 60 days after the update is released in the U.S., a localized version will be available in most major languages in North America, Europe, and Australia. Other regions will provide the improvements that are delivered in this update at a later date. Please contact the Apple Assistance Center in your area for details.

Question: How is Open Transport available to software developers, publishers, and/or Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for redistribution and bundling?

Answer: Apple offers two different redistribution licensing agreements for Open Transport, designed to meet the needs of publishers, software developers, and ISPs.

The first agreement is designed for Internet service providers, network and communications reference work authors and publishers, and others interested in bundling Open Transport software as an added customer benefit to their product or service offering. This license is based on a sliding-scale per-unit license fee, and requires annual reporting of licenses issued. Interested parties should send electronic mail to SW.LICENSE@apple.com.

The second agreement is designed for software developers with products that adopt the new Open Transport APIs who wish to ship Open Transport as a part of an integrated product installation process. This agreement is based on an addendum to the Mac OS SDK, and allows qualified developers to ship the Open Transport run-time environment to end-users as a part of their product.

To qualify, developers must execute the Open Transport License Addendum through Apple Software Licensing, and meet the following requirements:

- have developed an Open Transport-ready or Open Transport-enhanced software product,
- be current subscribers to the Mac OS SDK,
- provide Apple advance notice of their intent to ship their Open Transport product(s),
- distribute the required Open Transport components only in conjunction with their product(s),
- annually report the total number of licenses issued.

Other terms and conditions apply, however, no additional fees (beyond the Mac OS SDK subscription) are required for this license. Interested parties can send electronic mail to SW.LICENSE@apple.com.

Question: Will localized versions of Open Transport software be available for developer and ISP licensing?

Answer: Initially the Open Transport redistribution licensing program will only have the U.S. English version of the software available. Licensing of localized versions of Open Transport will depend upon demand and availability.

Question: What of the earlier Open Transport v1.0.x releases?

Answer: Open Transport v1.0.x releases were all designed for use only on the Apple PCI Macintosh systems:

- Open Transport version 1.0, for the Power Macintosh 9500, was focused on offering compatibility with existing networking client applications and on upgrading the feature set and performance of TCP/IP. It shipped only as an integral part of system software with the 9500.
- Version 1.0.1 was a maintenance update, designed to correct a potential problem with data truncation in large file transfers. Open Transport v1.0.1 was distributed electronically, as an update to be applied to an existing installation of Open Transport v1.0.
- Version 1.0.6 added support for the Power Macintosh 7200, 7500, and 8500 systems and addressed bugs discovered since the 1.0 release. Open Transport v1.0.6 shipped as a component of System Software 7.5.2 version 2 on the Power Macintosh 7200, 7500, 8500, and 9500 models.
- Version 1.0.7 included changes to improve performance and compatibility of Open Transport/TCP with third party SLIP and PPP software and with certain Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Open Transport v1.0.7 was distributed electronically, as an update to be applied to an existing installation of Open Transport v1.0.6.
- Version 1.0.8 was also a maintenance release, and included better compatibility with Qualcomm Eudora, Claris EMailer and EMailer Lite, CE Software QuickMail, and Netscape Communications client software, as well as improvements in BootP and DHCP interoperability. Open Transport v1.0.8 was distributed via a variety of information services and a number of Internet sites - as a full installation of Open Transport software.

Question: Why was Open Transport made available on PCI Power Macintosh systems first?

Answer: Starting with the introduction of the Power Mac 9500, Apple moved to adopt industry standards for both network driver software - Open Transport DLPI - and network hardware - PCI. This strengthened the business case for new and existing third party developers who could, as a result, include Mac OS on PowerPC in their plans for cross-platform network connectivity products. The Power Macintosh 9500 was the first system to incorporate both of these standards, and has since been followed by additional systems and configurations.

In particular, Apple made the business decision to move to standards for networking on the hardware and software fronts in tandem, that is, PCI and DLPI. This created a dependency that required customers deploy Open Transport with their PCI Mac OS systems. It also minimized the work by third parties needed to create drivers for new PCI networking cards. As a result customers have found a broad selection of third party PCI networking options for Mac OS.

Article Change History:

02 Apr 1997 - Updated online references and eMail addresses

25 Nov 1996 - Update current version of Open Transport.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:19427