Dial Up X.400 is moved forward by the APS Alliance

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Extended Abstract

Before Isocor and X.400 lite, there was no formal standard for dial-up X.400 communication. Many see this as having been a major obstacle to the widespread implementation of X.400 based messaging in small to medium sized businesses. An alliance of many prominent vendors, known as the APS Alliance, has taken the industry a major step forward in this regard with the development and introduction of the Asynchronous Protocol Specification.

A group of prominent vendors led by Isocor and Norwegian Telecom successully profiled and published a standard means for X.400 communication using standard dial-up telephone networks. The intent was to *facilitate the use of X.400 based messaging by using dial-up connections to dramatically reduce costs and complexity.*

The APS would be such a globally accepted standard which will allow multimedia X.400 traffic such as EDI, Electronic Mail, voice, images, fax and binary files quickly and reliably using the existing worldwide dial telephone network. APS is the common asynchronous protocol that allows Remote User Agents to dial into a X.400 message store and also allows X.400 MTAs to transfer messages using P1 RTS-RTS transfers.

To achieve global standardisation, the APS is already being discussed within the ITU which develops and publishes the X.400 and related recommendations.

No changes to X.400 are necessary to implement APS, since X.400 is a layer 7 protocol and does not mandate or assume a particular network protocol. The APS stack provides a service interface that is suitable for the needs of X.400.

Systems using APS for X.400 traffic maybe configured to achieve exceptionally high data throughput rates, due to recent advances in compression and error-correction technology. For example, Isocor's X.400 Lite server is capable of transmitting over forty pages per minute of mixed mode documents between continents using widely available V.32bis/V.42bis modems over International lines.

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