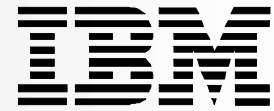# 10 Reasons to Use the IBM Communications Server for AIX

To take best advantage of your AIX system's networking power, use the IBM Communications Server for AIX Version 4

Here are the top ten reasons Communications Server could be the best networking decision you ever made:

1 **SNA end-to-end networking facilities** Communications Server's Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking (APPN) support provides SNA networking facilities that connect distributed computing and peer-to-peer applications to their servers. This includes high-performance routing (HPR) for improved throughput and availability.

2 **Multiprotocol support** If you have an application written for SNA or Sockets (TCP/IP), you can run it over an SNA or TCP/IP network, mixing and matching as your networking needs change. And in conjunction with IBM SNA Client Access for AIX, you can support TCP/IP clients through its TN3270 Server function, supporting any industry-standard TN3270E or TN5250 workstation.

3 **Versatile SNA gateway support** Your SNA applications running in any of the typical desktop environments (OS/2, DOS, or Windows), as well as AIX users, can use Communications Server to communicate across both SNA and TCP/IP backbones to other SNA applications.

4 **Complete connectivity** Whether you want to connect networks over a wide area network (WAN) using SDLC or X.25, or over a local area network (LAN) using token ring, Ethernet, Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI), or direct-attached Channel or ESCON attachment, Communications Server is the solution for you.

5 **Capacity for major growth** With the scalability of the RS/6000, and the power of Communications Server, you can support tens of thousands of workstations and simultaneous sessions.

6 **Powerful Programming features** From high-level, platform independent application interfaces, such as APPC, to device-level APIs, Communications Server provides a wide range of programming interfaces. Included with Communications Server is the SNA Programming Interface (SNAPI), an interactive transaction program generator that provides help for developing APPC and CPI-C transaction programs.

7 **Systems management** Communications Server includes a graphical tool to manage your SNA resources easily. Start and stop your SNA resources (including sessions) and display extensive SNA resource information.. Systems Management Interface (SMIT) is also available for easy management in the AIX environment.

8 **High Performance** Communications Server takes advantage of the symmetrical multiprocessor (SMP) technology by exploiting the parallel processing capabilities of this new technology. Using the efficiency of APPN in conjunction with the robust and powerful AIX platform, Communications Server consistently and reliably delivers peak performance from your network, achieving up to 90 percent of the available band width.

9 **Problem Determination** When problems occur, you can find and fix them quickly using the SNA format utility that formats complex link traces into easy-to-understand, fully deciphered output files. Trace facilities for SNA flows, events, and first-failure data capture are also provided to help you resolve problems quickly.

10 **Reliability and proven quality** Communications Server brings you enhanced reliability, with capabilities like gateway and centralized computer link backup, and automatic network routing. Plus, Communications Server has a distinguished heritage of quality, service, and support from its SNA Server/6000 predecessor.