



IBM eNetwork Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 Enhances Network Support, Network Utilization, and Centralized Administration

Overview

IBM eNetwork Communications Server for Windows NT™, Version 5.01, is an integral part of the IBM eNetwork software family. It provides host and Internet access, network integration, and end-to-end connectivity solutions. These interconnect people to the information they need with enterprise-class dependability and network computing support for e-business.

Communications Server is a powerful communications solution that supports all major platforms including AIX®, OS/2®, OS/390™, Windows NT, and NetWare, and is fully interoperable with OS/400® environments. SNA applications, running on familiar LAN-attached desktop environments, can communicate across SNA, TCP/IP, and IPX/SPX networks to host-based SNA applications. This delivers you the capability to deploy best-of-breed business applications without concerns for the underlying network types.

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 solves your requirements for:

- Leveraging current application investments by improving access to industry applications
- Additional network protocol support for NetWare-based clients
- More effective utilization of available bandwidth in your network
- Improved central administration of TN3270E clients to host resources

Upon the availability of Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01, Version 5.0 will no longer be available. Current licensees of Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0 can obtain the new enhancements in Version 5.01 at no charge. Refer to **General Information** for additional details.

Intended Customers

For customers who need a full range of communications and connectivity offerings on the Windows NT platform

Key Prerequisites

- Windows NT 3.51 or Version 4.0
- 100MHz Intel® Pentium®-based processors with 32MB RAM (recommended minimum)

Planned Availability Date

September 26, 1997

At a Glance

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 provides the following enhancements:

- IPX/SPX-attached clients can access SNA APIs without SNA protocols between the client and server.
- New API support is provided for the conventional LU Application Interface (LUA) with the addition of the Session Level Interface (SLI) API.
- TN3270E IP address filtering support is added to allow centralized configuration of mappings for TN3270 clients to LU resources, and to control access to those resources.
- SNA data compression at the session level increases throughput for large amounts of data across communications links.
- Server rollover is supported for clients using APPC, providing enhanced reliability.
- Previous maintenance fixes are included.

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 has also been verified as "Designed for Microsoft® BackOffice" compatible.

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Description

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 provides the following enhancements:

IPX/SPX-attached Client Support

IPX/SPX-attached clients can access SNA APIs without requiring SNA protocols to flow between the clients and the server. This remote API allows most SNA configurations to take place at the central server. The SNA clients provide support for CPI-C, EHNAPPC, LUA RUI, APPC, and limited support for NOF, MS, and Common Services interfaces, while providing the actual SNA processing at the server. These clients are delivered as part of the server, but are actually installed and configured at the client.

A Communications Server Software Development Toolkit (included in the installation of the Communications Server) is also available for application developers to use. The toolkit contains samples, header files, library files, and online manuals for each of the APIs.

Communications Server for Windows NT supports IPX/SPX-attached clients on Windows 95 and Windows NT.

Session Level Interface (SLI) on the Server

The Logical Unit Application (LUA) interface provides an API for secondary, dependent logical units (LUs). LUA consists of system software and interfaces that supply input/output service routines to support communications using LU types 0, 1, 2, and 3 SNA protocols.

There are two distinct interfaces that provide the LUA API support:

- Request Unit Interface (RUI) — supported in Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0
- Session Level Interface (SLI) — new support in Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01

SLI provides a higher level API that is simpler to program than RUI. For example, session establishment can be performed with one SLI verb, while RUI requires multiple verb requests.

TN3270E IP Address Filtering

TN3270E IP address filtering lets users indicate which clients, based on IP address, can access which LU names or pools representing host applications that have been configured for the TN3270E server. The following summarizes the main benefits:

- Provides additional security by allowing an administrator to configure which IP addresses/subnets are allowed to connect.
- Enhances central administration by allowing an administrator to configure which LUs that IP clients/subnets will map to and use without modifying client configurations.
- Removes the burden on the client of having to request a specific LU name on their connect request.

SNA Data Compression

Data compression of repetitive data at the session level increases throughput for large amounts of data across communications links, resulting in:

- Enhanced data throughput on low-speed lines
- Reduced costs on high-cost lines

SNA data compression is compatible with the S/390® and AS/400® implementation and can be used with all LU types. Support includes:

- RLE compression for independent LU 6.2. RLE and LZ compression for LU types 0, 1, 2, and 3.
- Compression of data sent between a host and a downstream workstation where Communications Server is used as a gateway.
- Compression of data sent between a host and the Communications Server on behalf of downstream TN and SNA API clients.

Server Rollover Support

Server rollover is supported for clients using APPC. This is a reliability enhancement that allows APPC clients to switch to a backup server in the event the initial server connection fails.

Previous Maintenance

Previous maintenance of all fixes for reported APARS are included.

“Designed for Microsoft BackOffice”

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 has been verified as BackOffice compatible, demonstrating IBM's commitment to provide software that integrates smoothly in a Windows® NT environment.

Product Positioning

The product positioning for Communications Server for Windows NT in Software Announcement 297-078, dated March 25, 1997, is unaffected by this announcement except as noted below.

Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.01 is the solution for companies in the Windows NT environment that have existing SNA applications they want to extend over TCP/IP **and/or** IPX/SPX networks.

General Information

The **Program Numbers, Publications, Ordering Information, Terms and Conditions, and Charges** sections for this announcement are the same as for Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0. Refer to Software Announcement 297-078, dated March 25, 1997.

Current Licensees of Version 5.0

Current licensees of Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0 can obtain the new enhancements in Version 5.01 at no charge. The enhanced CD-ROM will be available beginning September 26, 1997, via the IBM Communications Server Support home page at <http://www.networking.ibm.com/cms/csneh.html>. The customer must certify on the form presented that they have a valid Proof of Entitlement (PoE) for IBM Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0 and, upon request, must provide to IBM a PoE. A customer request for the Version 5.01 CD-ROM cannot exceed the number of basic licenses installed for IBM Communications Server for Windows NT, Version 5.0.

Trademarks

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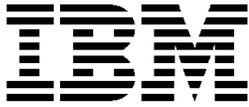
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IBM US Announcement Supplemental Information

September 9, 1997

Technical Information

The **Technical Information** section in Software Announcement 297-078, dated March 25, 1997, is unaffected by this announcement except as noted below.

Specified Operating Environment

Software Requirements: SNA API clients on Windows® 95 or Windows NT™ require TCP/IP **and/or IPX/SPX** for communications with Communications Server for Windows NT (Server).

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