IBM ACF/NCP, ACF/SSP, and NTuneMON Fact Sheet

Enhanced control and monitoring for today's multiprotocol enterprise

25 June 1996

Announcement Summary

Control and management support for the latest 3745 and 3746 Model 900 enhancements provides network managers with simplified application support, an improved management interface, and compatibility with existing protocols and network technologies.

The new Network Control Program (NCP) Version 7 Release 5 extends and improves the network's ability to accommodate and exploit high-speed transmission technologies including ISDN, and provides best-ever support for SNA, APPN, Frame Relay, Token-Ring, IP, and X.25.

The NCP is a program that resides in the communication controller and controls the flow of data between the host processor and the other components of the network, which include terminals, cluster controllers, token rings, or other peripheral devices, as well as other networks or NCPs in other controllers.

SSP is the collection of support programs that run in the host processor. They help you generate and load an NCP, dump controller storage, and diagnose network problems.

A new release of Advanced Communication Function/System Support Program (ACF/SSP), Version 4 Release 5, provides enhanced support for all new NCP functions.

NTuneMON is an interactive program that allows you to monitor an NCP while the network is running. It provides assistance in detecting, resolving, and preventing network problems.

Enhancements to NTuneMON (Version 2 Release 3) provides new monitoring capabilities for ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5.

Announcement Highlights

ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5, running in conjunction with the 3745 or 3746-900 controllers, features:

- Native Euro-ISDN primary rate adapter support
- Duplicate TIC addressing for logical subarea and logical frame handler connections
- High-Performance Routing (HPR) over X.25 ODLC links on the 3746-900
- Hot standby for Multiple Link Transmission Groups (MLTGs)
- Multiple Network APPN HPR

- Boundary access node (BAN) for Frame Relay (FR) subarea links
- Enhanced dynamic windowing algorithm for Frame Relay logical lines
- Configurable Frame Relay error count

The ACF/SSP Version 4 Release 5 provides enhanced generation and utility functions for ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5, including:

- ISDN
- Duplicate TIC
- Frame Relay error count

Monitoring capabilities for ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5 are enabled by NTuneMON Version 2 Release 3. Enhanced online interactive tuning abilities and ISDN are supported, including:

- B-Channel detail
- Logical stations attached to B-Channels
- Details about ISDN logical stations
- Information about Frame Relay links

Additional Technical Details

Designed to enhance enterprise-wide connectivity, these latest software updates feature support for both the 3746 Model 900 and the 3745.

ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5:

- Designed to operate on any IBM 3745 Communication Controller channel-attached to a host processor or remotely connected via an SDLC link, IBM Token-Ring, X.25, or Frame Relay through another controller to a host processor.

ACF/SSP Version 4 Release 5:

- Incorporates new and changed keywords and statement structure required for ISDN parameters including:
  - Optional cyclical redundancy checks (CRCs) included in frames
  - Unrestricted or restricted information transfer
  - ISDN address and subaddress for physical interfaces
- ACF/trace analysis program (TAP) is updated to support ISDN as follows:
  - Outboard data link control (ODLC) line traces dynamic parameter status areas (DSPAs) as NCP sees them.

  - ACF/TAP adds an option so that you can segregate data for a specific B-Channel from a line trace of the physical line. This physical line trace includes data for the D-Channel and one or more B-Channels.

NTuneMON Version 2 Release 3:

- Designed to run in a virtual storage environment in any IBM system configuration that supports MVS/ESA, MVS/XA, or VM/ESA.
- With the NTuneNCP Tuning Feature, operates with the IBM 3720, 3725, 3745, or 3745 with 3746 Model 900 controllers.

The ACF/NCP, ACF/SSP, and NTuneMON software releases will be available in November 1996 worldwide, except in Latin America. Availability there will be December 1996.

Benefits

ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5:

- World-class subarea routing solutions
- Excellent APPN capabilities
- Solid IP support
- High-speed X.25 SNA transmission capabilities
- Comprehensive Frame Relay switching

For ACF/SSP Version 4 Release 5:

- Support for all ACF/NCP and associated product releases supported by ACF/SSP Version 4 Release 2 still in service.

NTuneMON Version 2 Release 3:

- Faster resolution of potential and existing internetwork problems
- Increased network and NCP availability via interactive online tuning
- Enhanced management of controllers and networks

Positioning

For ACF/NCP Version 7 Release 5:

- Customers considering migration to newer levels of NCP

- Customers seeking ISDN primary rate interface
- Customers seeking to expand HPR routes to span multiple APPN subnetworks
- Customers interested in Frame Relay technology

For ACF/SSP Version 4 Release 5:

- Required SSP for all customers who use ACF/NCP Version 7, Release 5 in the MVS/ESA, MVS/XA, VM/ESA, or VSE/ESA environments.

For NTuneMON Version 2 Release 3:

- Recommended for internetwork managers implementing ISDN features of the IBM 3746
- For customers desiring online tuning capabilities for communication controllers.

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