
Solutions for Etebac and Transpac/X25 Migrations

After more than 30 years of continuous service, the Transpac network will be discontinued in late 2011. At first, this would seem to allow users to set up a new network based on the Internet, but closer inspection reveals that there is still lots of activity on Transpac, involving multiple partners for each company.

These exchanges are subject to agreements to determine procedures. With Transpac, the choice of network was simple because there was no other alternative. Today, there are lots of solutions, and companies can even use multiple solutions to accommodate each of their partners.

But at what cost? And what are the impacts on the company's applications and information system?

The main alternatives to Transpac are:

- Internet or IP access associated with a protocol that uses a transport signature
- A point-to-point VPN connection associated with a secure protocol (TLS, IPsec)
- A secure exchange platform or a private network
- Staying on X25 virtually

Is everything there to meet the needs of partners?

The many services that banks offer their customers are based on Transpac. For the most part, they are based on Etebac 3 and 5 exchange protocols. Today, nearly 90,000 companies directly or indirectly use these protocols for Transpac data interchange, sometimes without even knowing it. It is integrated into their accounting software. As part of the SEPA project, banks made the decision to move to two new protocols: EBICS and FileAct (for SWIFTNet).

What benefits are there for the company? Is a software change or upgrade inevitable? Will vendors support both protocols? Or just one? Will banks offer other alternatives?

EBICS is a solution that will change over time.

Version 2, which includes electronic signatures, is planned for late 2010, and there are rumors that there will be as many versions as there are banks. SWIFTNet FileAct requires solutions to be installed to route incoming messages.

Should we wait for complete, stable solutions before moving forward?

Rather than being a constraint, Transpac's simultaneous stops and Etebac exchanges are a great opportunity to:

- Take another look at how information is exchanged between partners
- Set up scalable and sustainable solutions
- Reduce operating costs
- Move naturally toward inter-application and inter-partner dialogs

When reviewing the file transfer architecture and entering into an agreement with partners on new data interchange protocols, it is important to make choices that take into account the desired level of interactivity in terms of both protocol and the data transfer architecture.

Given the costs and risks associated with such a migration, it may be worthwhile to use a multiple-protocol communication and conversion gateway (PCG) to move from the old format to the new format(s). This PCG philosophy would serve to encapsulate the combination of protocol, format, and exchange.

The main advantage of this is that it provides full transparency for file transfer monitors and/or applications, which will not be impacted in any way. Such a solution would therefore make several solutions available at once.

Setting up a PCG may be appropriate to address the impact of all of these changes because it provides some clear advantages:

- Minimal development
- Transparent to partners
- Flexible and scalable architecture
- Immediate ROI
- A choice that does not create any restrictions or problems for the future

➤ **For more information, please refer to the white paper at <http://www.syspertec.com> or contact us directly.**

About SysperTec Communication

SysperTec Communication is a software development company whose mission is to help its customers by providing sustainable solutions for interoperability in order to facilitate and automate data interchange within differing IT environments of today and tomorrow. An independent company, SysperTec Communication has a team of experts with nearly 20 years of experience in developing software to simplify business network and application integration projects.

For more information, please visit <http://www.syspertec.com>.

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