Internet Accounting 2 BOF

Toronto IETF, Thu 28 Jul 94

Agenda

- Introduction
- Working Group Charter
- Accounting Data File formats
- Meter Services MIB Draft

Why do we need an ‘Accounting’ standard?

- **Network managers and researchers need ways of measuring traffic flows.**

  Right now there are several widely-used ways to do this, e.g. Cisco IP Accounting, nnstat and tcpdump, but no standard way.

- **Need greater accuracy and reliability.**

Why the RFC 1272 approach?

- **Carefully designed to be general**
- **Multi-protocol approach**

  TCP/IP, IPX, Appletalk, DECnet, CLNP, (...)
- **Multi-layer approach**

  Data Link, Network, Transport, (Application) layers
  - **Multiple attributes to describe flows**

RFC 1272 approach (contd)

- **Granularity control**
  - **User-supplied rules count and aggregate only flows of interest.**
  - **User determines flow attributes to be collected.**
  - **Control over collection intervals.**
- **Multiple meters, multiple collectors**

Who's interested?

- IP providers
  - who want to recover costs from their users and anticipate usage patterns
- Researchers
  - who want to know where the traffic is flowing and what kind of traffic it is
- Telcos
  - who have always been interested in billing, and who are getting increasingly interested in becoming network service providers

How strong is the demand?

- **Public Domain implementation *(NeTraMet)* available since Oct '93**
- **About two e-mail requests a week from folks using NeTraMet asking for help**
- **Approximately 50 sites have used it**

Accounting 2 WG Charter

- **Produce standard for the generation of accounting data within the Internet**
  - **use to support a wide range of management and cost allocation policies.**
- **Previous Work**
  - **Accounting Model (RFC 1272)**
  - **First Draft Meter Services MIB**
- **Deliverables**
  - **Accounting Architecture**
  - **Meter Services MIB**
  - **Accounting Flow Data File Format**
  - **Consult with other Working Groups on Accounting**

WG Charter (contd)

- **Milestones**
  - Submit Meter Services MIB — Dec 94
  - Submit Accounting Architecture — Dec 94
  - Submit Accounting File Formats — Apr 95
  - Add Application and Session Layers — Aug 95