



Using and Managing PPP: Help for Network Administrators

By Andrew Sun

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In the last decade, the Internet has grown from a network that connected a few universities and research centers to a network that links many businesses and households all over the country. That expansion occurred for many reasons, but the technological advance that facilitated this growth was an obscure protocol called PPP. PPP isn't talked about as much as TCP and IP, but it plays a crucial role in extending networks into remote locations. The Point-to-Point Protocol enables telephone lines and other point-to-point connections to carry Internet traffic. It's the protocol that establishes and maintains the connection between your home and an Internet service provider. This book provides in-depth coverage of PPP for network administrators and others who are involved in the care and maintenance of PPP connections. It provides a thorough introduction to how PPP works, which will help you diagnose and troubleshoot problems. It discusses in detail how to set up dial-in and dial-out PPP on the most important platforms, including Windows, Linux, and Solaris. Whether you're a sophisticated user responsible for your own connection or a network administrator providing dial-up services for hundreds of remote users, you'll find this book an essential addition to your library. Covers:

- PPP implementations in Windows 95/98/NT, Solaris, and Linux
- Authentication (CHAP, PAP, Microsoft variants, and other techniques)
- Virtual networks and tunnels, including PPTP
- Modems and serial lines
- Related technologies, including DNS and ARP
- Optimizing and customizing a connection
- Debugging techniques

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) plays a big role in modern networks, from the Internet on down. It's the most popular way of sending and receiving datagrams across a serial connection--typically a telephone line. In *Using and Managing PPP*, Andrew Sun reveals the details of this widely used networking technology.

Sun starts with an overview of how PPP fits into the Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) networking model and then details the operation of RS-232 (Recommended Standard 232) connections and modems. He describes the anatomy of a PPP link, explaining how a connection gets established and how the protocol breaks data into frames for transport--with particular attention to how TCP/IP packets move across a PPP connection.

Using and Managing PPP also attacks PPP from a practical perspective, conveying information about how to set up and use the protocol on several popular platforms. It provides specific instructions for setting up PPP under Solaris, Linux, Windows 3.x, Windows 98, and both versions of Windows NT 4 for both dial-in and dial-out applications.

Even Sun acknowledges that those planning to implement PPP in software ought to consult the IEEE documents that define it, though this book lacks sufficient low-level detail for that kind of work. However, *Using and Managing PPP* serves the purposes of administrators and others interested in getting the most out of PPP from a network-management perspective. --David Wall

About the Author

Andrew Sun's experience with computers dates back to the early 1980s. He is an electrical engineer by training, with an MSEE degree from Stanford University. Andrew has many years of experience in the telecommunications industry and has performed engineering work for emerging broadband ISDN and ATM products. He currently engineers IT infrastructures, and his areas of expertise include networking, firewalls, email with SMTP, DNS, Usenet, Solaris administration, and of course, dial-up remote access.

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