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SPNK'R Proxy Slip Server (January 1994)

Introduction

Well, if you're like me, ever since this Mosaic thing hit, your friends and even friends of friends have come out of the woodwork to see if you could help them get an internet connection so that thier "kids" could run Mosaic. Id love to accomodate them all since I think this stuff is cool, but going out to buy a terminal server and a bunch of external modems just didnt seem cost effective. I have a bunch of other equipment taking up space and generating heat but nothing seems to have a lot of ports on it. After seeing an add for some \$28 4-port AST cards and some \$59 14.4K internal modems, it ocured to me that I could put together a "box of ports" for pretty cheap using an XT or AT. Didnt have any software though that I could modify to support all this and at the same time not take too much of my time to keep it running. So I took bits and pieces of some of the other code we sell (a multi-tasker, memory manager,serial drivers,ethernet drivers,IP router,SLIP) and compiled it into a single .exe to be loaded by DOS. Now I had a multi-line SLIP server. Didnt want to spend all my evenings setting up Mosaic on everyone's PC so I added a mapping mechanism that would modify IP addresses and port numbers based on login name and account type (in the svr.pwd file) so that for your generic Mosaic user, the specific address settings for his TCP/IP stack (i.e. Trumpet) were irrelevant. Finnaly added DNS interception to force the right choice of Name Server (as defined in svr.scr) Out of all this I created svr.exe. I hope you guys find it usefull, and although I must make a living doing other things, I would very much appreciate any comments and suggestions for improving svr.exe. Send your comments/suggestions to spnkr@xtcn.com and Ill try to reply to them.

Description

The SPNK'R Proxy Slip Server converts an ordinary PC XT or better into a multi-line TCP/IP SLIP server and router complete with login/password security. Additionally the Proxy-Slip feature overcomes the client side configuration difficulties associated with setting up TCP/IP. Using this feature the client need only enter his login/password pair.

Applications:

- Become a minature Internet Service Provider
- Use Mosaic at work ? Well, execute svr.exe on your desktop before you leave and dial into it from home. Then run Mosaic at home.
- Remote access from multiple sites provided by a single inexpensive PC

Features:

- Instant Mosaic for your friends using standard Mosaic/SLIP.
- No client configuration and no new IP addresses.
- Cheap. Uses obsolete equipment. Works on any PC.
- Its an IP router
- Proxy DNS service for PROXY-SLIP accounts ensures name resolution.
- 100% SLIP compatible.
- All user needs is telephone number/login/password.
- Also supports standard SLIP with specific addresses.
- Proxy ARP replies for standard SLIP accounts.
- Its free.
- Supports AST and clone multiport cards.
- Supports 16550 chips.
- New version supports dial-out on demand.

- Supports identd queries.
- Works with Compuserver/WinCim (via Trumpet WinSock).
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What a PROXY-SLIP account wont do (regular SLIP accounts will do these):

- PING
- Open a listening socket.

The SPNK'R Proxy Slip Server is comprised of `srvr.exe`, `srvr.scr`, `srvr.pwd`. `Srvr.scr` is a list of commands that get executed at startup. Refer to the sample one provided for a list of commands and thier use. `Srvr.pwd` is a text file containng login/password pairs and account type information. The name entered at the SPNK'R login prompt must match one of the entries in this file. Duplicate logins are not allowed. Refer to the sample `srvr.pwd` file for format information. `Srvr.exe` is the main program loaded by DOS. `Srvr.scr` and `srvr.pwd` must be in the same directory. Ensuring that you have protocol entries for IP and ARP in `NET.CFG` (see the README file) then typing `srvr.exe` at the DOS prompt should load the program, execute the commands in `srvr.scr`, then give you a prompt. At this point you may execute other commands such as "ser" to get a status on all the serial ports, "fin" to get finger style user lists. The command "exit" will close all the ports and return you to DOS. Refer to the sample `srvr.scr` for more information on the commands.

Requirements

- PC with 512K and a floppy drive.
- Ethernet card with Packet driver or equivalent.
- Serial ports (16550 preferable) or internal modems. A 4-Port AST or clone card works nicely.

We run it here on a 10MHz PC with 512K, a floppy drive, a \$24 ethernet card, a \$28 4-port serial card or a few \$60 14.4K internal modems.

Where to get it

Click [here](#) for a fully functional (self extracting) demo copy. Grab it, unzip it, edit `srvr.scr` and `srvr.pwd` then type `srvr.exe`. We all know the difference between free software and pay for software is support. So, for a comercial version, inquire via to e-mail to spnkr@xtn.com for a version with more capacity and "support".

Legal Stuff

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