

TO: Recipients of June 1, 1983, release of PC/IP packages

FROM: J. H. Saltzer

SUBJ: Progress

DATE: January 27, 1983

A significant step has been taken within M.I.T. regarding distributability of our PC/IP programs, which provide TCP/IP facilities for the IBM/PC over local area networks. This step relaxes the distribution constraints and makes it possible for us to give copies of current source and object code to anyone, subject only to our own constraints of time and effort required to cope with the logistics.

In summary, the step is that we have decided to make the programs available under M.I.T. copyright but on a license-free and royalty-free basis, with blanket copying, modification, and redistribution permission. The only constraint in the blanket permission is that all redistribution credit M.I.T. as the source of the original programs. In other words, we are going for publicity rather than royalties.

We are just now preparing a release diskette (the February 1, 1984, release) containing the latest object versions of the programs. The most important changes since the June 1, 1983, release are the addition of a TFTP server, integration with DOS 2.0 (required now,) support for the PC/XT, support for the proNET local area network, and fixing of dozens of minor and major bugs.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this release, please send us an empty 2-sided PC diskette by U.S. mail, specifying which kind of local area network you have, and a telephone number in case we notice a problem that should be resolved first. We will fill up the diskette and send it back along with the latest user's manual, which contains a complete list of the changes since the June, 1983, release. We expect that the same release and documentation will be available shortly at nominal cost through both 3COM Corp. and Proteon Associates, the suppliers of the two local networks currently supported by the PC/IP software.

As you know, we are not a software house, so we make no guarantees either that the programs work as hoped or that we will be able to provide any help in the usual customer-support sense. Acquiring these programs directly from us is a venture that

should be undertaken only by organizations prepared to cope with system-installation problems by themselves. We recommend that if you need customer support you obtain the programs from a distribution organization that provides it, such as 3COM or Proteon.

We are not quite organized yet to handle the logistics of source code distribution, but we have received enough requests that we will have to get organized soon. If you think that you need the source code, you should realize that a prerequisite to compiling the PC/IP programs is that you must have imported Chris Terman's 8086 version of the UNIX Portable C compiler and associated loader and assembler systems. That importation in turn requires a UNIX system, a current UNIX license, and negotiation with Chris Terman.

We expect to make the source code available in the form of a UNIX "tar" tape containing the source snapshot of February 1, 1984. The machine and personnel time to make those tapes is just large enough that we will probably have our publications office do the job, and they will probably ask the recipient to pay a nominal fee for the service.

Thank you for your interest in these programs, and we apologize for the length of time it took us to come to a conclusion on how to handle distribution. We hope that the delay will now be rewarded with a method that is exceptionally convenient for all parties concerned.

U.S. Mail address to request February, 1984, release:

J. H. Saltzer
M.I.T. Room NE43-513
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Telephone (617) 253-6016
ARPANET address (preferred method for inquiries):
Saltzer @ MIT-Multics