

Serial Line Interface Protocol (SLIP) and MacTCP

I heard that Apple supports SLIP (Serial Line Interface Protocol) added on to MacTCP. Could you explain SLIP? Will MacTCP (future versions) support SLIP?

This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.

SLIP is an asynchronous, serial line protocol developed for running TCP/IP over serial communications lines in a point-to-point configuration. SLIP was developed to transmit IP packets over low-speed, sometimes noisy, asynchronous communications lines where error recovery and an efficient line protocol are needed. The SLIP protocol is now being replaced with a new serial line protocol named "PPP", which uses a more efficient means of establishing a point-to-point IP connection.

MacTCP 1.0.2 includes hooks that let third-party developers write different link-layer modules. This makes possible the development of interfaces to SLIP, PPP, and to any other link layer that someone may need, like broadband, X.25, FDDI, and so on. Apple does not provide support in MacTCP for SLIP or any other serial line protocol; these have to come from third-party developers.

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