

Stallion Pipes Up on ML-IP

Stallion Technologies will release the first product based on its Multi-Link IP technology in December 2001, an ePipe ServerWare VPN Concentrator software offering that will enable users to 'bond' multiple, disparate IP connections, regardless of whether the underlying transmission mechanism is PSTN, ISDN, ADSL, Frame Relay, ATM, T1 or T3.

Not long after this product makes its appearance in the market, Stallion will also release the first ePipe appliance incorporating ML-IP, which will also include four Ethernet interfaces – necessary for bonding WAN connections.

ML-IP builds on Stallion's previous efforts in this field, end-to-end bonding (E2B) – a term that marketing manager, Richard Fay, says the company is going

to let "quietly die, and let ML-IP take its place".

E2B has several limitations, compared with ML-IP, Stallion's chief technology officer, Tony Merenda, said: "It was [an Internet-VPN product that was] only capable of doing a function in situations where it could control the link to the ISP.

"ML-IP takes it one step further – as long as we have an IP over Ethernet connection available to us, regardless of what the connection is to the carrier, we are able to aggregate multiple links together."

E2B was initially designed to bond connections through PSTN analogue and ADSL modems, and ISDN NTUs; whereas ML-IP extends connectivity options through to routers, and thus

private data networks – extending Stallion's base market.

"A lot of our research has shown that the big corporates, especially in the US, have really been managing in the Frame Relay or Managed IP space," Merenda said. "Most US corporations are sticking to frame relay and carrier managed VPNs – they are not putting together their own CPE-based VPNs, except for mobile workers."

ML-IP will bridge the gap between 200Kbps to 2Mbps, and 2Mbps to 100Mbps – allowing customers to bond, for example, two DSL lines, which may be a cheaper alternative than buying a T1. It will also allow telcos to more cost-effectively offer incremental data services, Merenda said.

🌐 **Pamela Clark-Dickson**
