Ascend

OVERVIEW

Ascend Signaling System 7 (SS7) Gateway

The Ascend SS7 Gateway (ASG) is the first commercially available, standards-based Signaling System 7 (SS7) gateway product. Built on software and hardware gained through Ascend's recently completed acquisition of Stratus Computer, the ASG is already in field trials at leading service providers around the world. The ASG includes an Internet Call Diversion application running on a fault-tolerant platform with full SS7 capabilities, and is designed for installation at telecommunications company central offices.

The ASG solves a critical problem faced by carriers today: the congestion of voice circuits resulting from massive growth in dial-up Internet calls. By enabling remote access equipment to communicate with carriers' SS7 networks, the ASG supports the redirection of resource-consuming Internet traffic from the public switched telephone network (PSTN) directly onto data networks. This breakthrough capability enables service providers to end Internet busy signals, cut the cost of providing dial-up connections and free-up PSTN circuits to carry voice traffic only. The ASG works with Ascend's market-leading MAX TNT™ WAN access switches to provide the industry's only end-to-end solution for transparently routing calls between voice and data networks.

ASG is another step forward in implementing the Ascend MultiVoice™ strategy. Essentially, ASG is a building block for MultiVoice, a comprehensive architecture for delivering voice and fax over IP, ATM, and Frame Relay networks. Future applications will enable the ASG to use standards-based SS7 carrier signaling to direct voice traffic to a MultiVoice network. As a result, customers will be able to leverage their investment in the ASG to provide voice across data networks transparently.



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