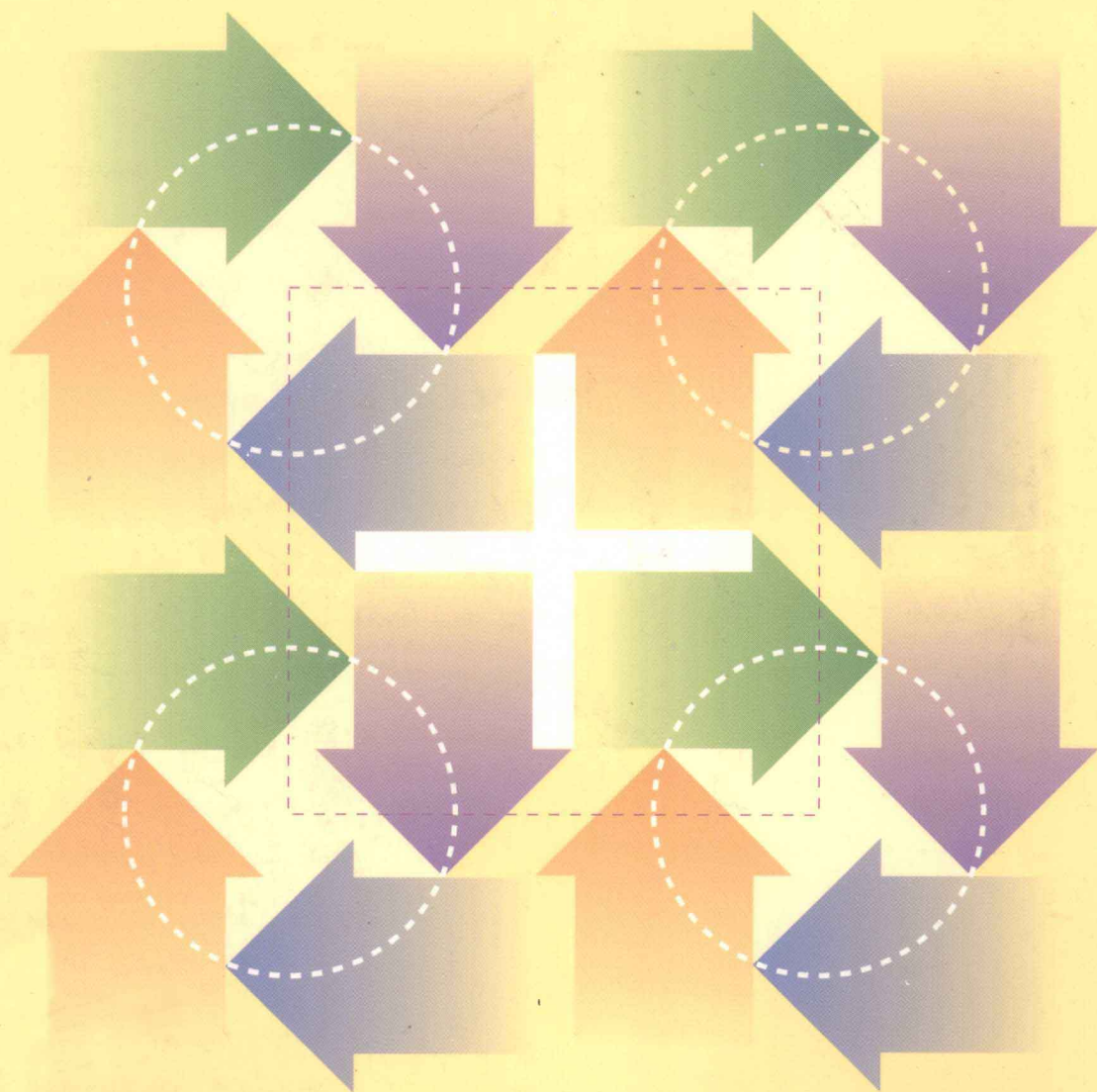


H A N D B O O K O F

# NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY



GARY R. McCLAIN, Editor

# HANDBOOK OF NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY

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Edited by  
**Gary R. McClain**



**AP PROFESSIONAL**

Boston San Diego New York  
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955 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

An imprint of ACADEMIC PRESS, INC.

A Division of HARCOURT BRACE & COMPANY

*United Kingdom Edition published by*

ACADEMIC PRESS LIMITED

24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX

ISBN 0-12-482080-8

Printed in the United States of America

94 95 96 97 98 ML 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# **HANDBOOK OF NETWORKING & CONNECTIVITY**

# Foreword

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The content of the *Handbook of Networking and Connectivity* illustrates the diversity of issues and considerations in this important area of information management. I am grateful to the contributors for taking time out from their hectic schedules to expand the body of knowledge in this subject area and provide valuable reference materials for technical professionals. The chapter contributors are all experts in their own right.

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# Introduction

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The new era in information management during the 1990s will focus on connectivity, with the technical staff increasingly placed in the role of not only making sure that the hardware and software resources *work*, but work *together* as a unified whole. Attaining this level of connectivity will require an extensive knowledge of both proprietary and international standards as well as an understanding of the technical considerations inherent in choosing one networking strategy over another.

As organizations streamline to compete in the global economy, it is critical that diverse information resources be coordinated and distributed across departmental, national, and even international boundaries. Hardware and software vendors have individually moved toward network management, through local and wide area networks that form a basis for enterprise-wide information sharing.

Network management professionals will be key players in IS departments of the 1990s. Many vendors are building some level of standards compliance into their product offerings. However, the IS staff will be responsible for understanding the nuances of this compliance, discerning the levels of compliance and approach that is correct for their organizations, and making the strategy work.

The overall purpose of the *Handbook of Networking and Connectivity* is to serve as a comprehensive networking and connectivity reference book for MIS networking and systems professionals. The reader will be able to look to this book as a source for understanding the current connectivity standards in use, as well as hardware and software options, and as a guide for solving specific problems that arise in designing and maintaining organizational networks.

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# P A R T 1

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## **Enterprise-Wide Networks**

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