LANSource™ Technical Information

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Subject: Overview of RASport and its use Windows® NT RAS

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1.0 Overview of RAS and RASport

The Remote Access Service (RAS) in Windows NT allows a client (a computer or workstation) to connect to a Local Area Network from a remote location.

RASport allows a Windows NT communications programs to share a Windows NT serial port with RAS.

Once RASport has been installed, the setup dialog supplied with the program lists all the serial COM ports that are available on the Windows NT system which either use or do not use RAS.

Using this simple setup dialog to configure your COM port resources, you will be able to connect to the ports normally reserved for RAS through your communication program.

These connections are transparent and require no special modification to the software.

1.1 Installing RASport

Prior to installing RASport be certain to <u>Stop the RAS service</u>. This is done through the Windows Control panel. See your Windows NT system guide for information on the operation of Services if you have any questions on this procedure.

To begin the installation process, simply select the RASport option from the installation
CD ROM's main menu that is shown after running 'SETUP'. (See the instructions printed on the insert supplied with the CD ROM's jewel box for more information starting the installation program).

 When the installation program is running, simply follow the instructions shown on-screen.

1.2 Using RASport

During the RASport installation you will be shown which COM ports are being used by RAS and which are not. You will select the ports used by RAS for use with RASport at that time.

The RASport program will give the COM port a second name of 'RASPORT#', where '#' will be the identification number of the port. This information will be displayed by the monitoring functions of Windows NT only.

When using a Windows Communications or Terminal program, you will be able to connect to those ports normally reserved for RAS if they are not being used by that service.

Note: When using WINport/FAXport, use the regular comm port name, e.g. COM2, not the second name created by RASport (e.g. RASPORT2)

1.3 Handling Inbound And Outbound Calls

a)   The current version of RASport supports RAS dial-in, but not RAS dial-out (so do not dial an outbound RAS connection on a COM port that is being shared by RASport).

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b)   RASport monitors I/O activity on each COM port, to determine when the port is idle (where 'idle' means that the application has open the port, but is merely sitting there waiting for an incoming call) ...

i/.   If a program (e.g. FAXport or Windows NT Terminal) tries to open the extra COM port, while RAS is actively handling an incoming call through the original COM port name, then the attempt to open the extra COM port will fail (and the RAS connection will not be interrupted). If this happens, wait until the RAS connection has finished: as soon as RAS is idling, waiting for an incoming call, then the attempt to open the extra COM port will succeed.

ii/.   The current version of RASport supports adaptive dial-in connections on the extra COM port, only if that extra COM port is being used by FAXPORT (not by any other application); whenever an application other than FAXPORT is using the extra COM port, then RAS will not be able to receive incoming calls.

If FAXport is using the extra COM port but has allowed the line to idle (because it has no outbound faxes to send, and is merely listening for an incoming fax), then RASport will use the modem's adaptive answer to route any incoming call to the correct program: incoming data calls are passed to RAS, and incoming fax calls are passed to FAXport.

iii/. Only one application at a time can be using the extra COM port. For example, if the extra COM port is being used by FAXPORT, then you will not be able to open that COM port using TERMINAL.

iv/. RASport watches the modem initialization strings that are sent by RAS, so that whenever an application finishes using the extra COM port, RASport can reinitialize the modem into the state expected by RAS.

RASport will be confused by the multitude of strings that RAS sends to the modem, when RAS is trying to detect the type of modem (when you use Control Panel/Network to install RAS, or to configure it for a new COM port or new type of modem).

The Control Panel will tell you to restart the system, whenever you change the RAS settings: you should do this (RASport will not be able to properly reinitialize the modem until after the system is restarted.

When you have restarted RASport, you will see the following RASport message in the Windows NT system Event Log

 "The last modem initialization string captured from RAS did not contain the expected 'Answer On' (i.e. S∅=)").

1.4 RASport Error Reporting

When RASport is used , RASport cannot display messages on the Windows desktop (because RASport is a Windows NT kernel-mode device driver). Instead, information messages (for example, which say that RASport is loaded successfully), and any error messages, can be displayed using the Windows NT system Event Log.

1.5 Supported Modems And Serial Ports

RASport has been tested only with SERIAL.SYS (the standard Windows NT serial port driver). Due to its design, RASport should work with other serial drivers.

See the latest Windows NT Hardware Compatibility List for a list of modems supported by RAS.

FAXport will work with any Class 1, Class 2, or Class 2.0 fax or fax data modem (there are too many of these modems to list). However, the current version of RASport can provide adaptive answer only for Class 2.0 modems. The following are Class 2.0 modems which have been tested with RASport:

◆   **USR Courier Supervisor date 07/10/95**

◆   **USR Sportster 288 Supervisor date 04/18/95 Rev 6.0.5 DSP date 03/31/95 Rev 1.0.9**