Implementing IP Services at the Network Edge – Book Review

By Mr. David A. Rosenthal, MPA

KEYWORD SEARCH

Computer Science
Information Technology
Internet

Non-Reviewed Article

Implementing IP Services at the Network Edge – Book Review

By Mr. David A. Rosenthal, MPA

David Rosenthal has been an Information Technology professional at both the technical and managerial levels for the past 20 years, and is currently the Project Coordinator for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance project at University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina in Greenville, North Carolina. David is a doctoral candidate in Indiana State University's Technology Management program, and a member of both NAIT and the Project Management Institute. David has also been published in the journal *Information Systems Management*, and the *Journal of Healthcare Information Management* ®. He can be reached by e-mail at drosent@pcmh.com.

Today's service provider landscape hinges largely upon the market opportunities that become available as networking services technology continues to mature. Traditional concerns such as effective management of bandwidth and network devices must now be leveraged to include a more innovative utilization of all broadband services.

In a global business environment where competition is brutal and high-value IP services rule, technology managers need comprehensive tools for achieving and maintaining an advantage in the networking services marketplace. Authors David Ginsburg (VP of Marketing and Product Management for Silicon Valley-based Allegro Networks) and Marie Hattar (Nortel Networks Intelligent Internet business unit's director of Product Marketing) give readers a leg up on the competition with their book *Implementing IP Services at the Network Edge* (Addison-Wesley, 2002).

Ginsburg and Hattar have produced a truly useful and timely textbook that can perhaps be best described by what it isn't – an introduction to network services. Directed mainly toward consultants and networking engineers, *Implementing IP Services* takes internetworking device management into new territory with information that will be useful to carriers and Internet service providers. The authors also give considerable attention to the many advantages of the Internet Protocol Services Switch (IPSS) - the hardware and provisioning platforms that bring together physical infrastructure, security, content, tunneling, and media protocols.

A rather new addition to the networking lexicon, the *network edge* is the point where the various technological market segments (customers, carriers and Internet service providers (ISPs)) converge. According to Ginsburg and Hattar, it's "the point where the network joins various access technologies such as DSL, cable, and wireless connections with the high-speed routed and optical core."

At 369 pages (modest compared to most textbooks), *Implementing IP Services* explores network services delivery beginning with a detailed discussion on the origins of data services, and ending with a number of helpful examples of network service deployments including DSL, Cable Open Access, and Broadcast Video Distribution. The book's eight chapters are logically presented, and vary in length between 30 and 50 pages each. Technical discussions cover the gamut of inter- and intra-network services including security and tunneling, broadband access, firewalls and IP-VPNs, and the IP services switch (IPSS).

Ginsburg and Hattar conclude *Implementing IP Services* with a comprehensive addendum that includes a networking services glossary, a list of well-known applications, and a directory of vendors and service providers active in broadband deployment. Also provided is a list of broadband services standards and recommendations, and up-to-date web addresses for some of the most relevant industry associations.

Even though the subject matter is focused and specific, it is likely that *Implementing IP Services at the Network Edge* will be of little practical use to those professionals not working in a service carrier or ISP environment. But for those professionals whose "bread and butter" is network service delivery, Ginsburg and Hattar have presented a strategic plan for fighting the battles of operability and manageability at the network edge and this book is definitely worth the read.