

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Network Traffic Prioritization

Congratulations to Linda Kennard on her article about traffic prioritization ("Traffic Problems? Making Way for Important Network Packets," *NetWare Connection*, July 1999, pp. 6–21). This is one of the best articles that I have read on the subject—and I have read quite a few. The technologies were clearly explained and easy to read. I use this article as the cornerstone article when I talk about network prioritization.

I am also delighted that the magazine covers subjects in addition to NetWare. Articles that discuss technology trends and additional products are good "stepping stones," enabling me to recognize the future of the industry and of Novell.

Nicholas Ho

## A Good Word

I want to tell you how much I enjoy *NetWare Connection*. The magazine is filled with valuable information for the serious, career-minded networking professional. I enjoy the articles that cover a specific technology and that discuss more than one approach (even a competitor's approach) to solving problems. This variety of information demonstrates objectivity in your publication, rather than just another marketing campaign.

It is enlightening to read about a technology and later demonstrate my knowledge when management thinks they have just found a new solution to a problem—and they have failed to consult me about this new solution. Management is finally coming to me to ask if I know about a technology that they have just found. I am miles ahead of their own in-house staff due to reading *NetWare Connection* magazine.

I also like being able to access past issues online. I frequently reference these issues to reread articles about solutions or products when they become relevant to my situation.

Continue the fine work; I look forward to every issue.

Roger Laurel

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I think I have been a technical editor too long. I used to find technology interesting in an intellectual way, but I don't remember thinking technology was Cool (with a capital C). And certainly, I never tried to discuss it with friends and associates. Unfortunately, I have begun to do just that. I recently found myself telling an associate all about SQL Integrator, a little-known Novell product. As Cheryl Walton explains in "Managing Multiple Databases," SQL Integrator enables users to access data stored in multiple databases. (See p. 16.) You know what this means of course? You no longer need to consolidate all of the databases your company uses. Instead, you can create an n-tier network and run SQL Integrator at the middle tier. SQL Integrator, in turn, can connect to and access the databases running on bottom-tier servers.

In fact, SQL Integrator is similar in concept to another Novell product DirXML, which *NetWare Connection* featured in the September issue. (See "DirXML: Share Data Across Applications," pp. 34–37. You can download this article from <http://www.nwconnection.com/past>.) Slated for release in 2000, DirXML enables applications to use Novell Directory Services (NDS) to store common data. With DirXML, companies have to enter and update common information only once, and all applications can then access that information. Both SQL Integrator and DirXML enable you to use your company's existing databases or applications while providing a better way to manage your company's data.

When researching "Managing Multiple Databases," Cheryl Walton also found that Java is changing databases just as it is changing other platforms. Database developers such as Oracle are using Java to process data inside the database itself. For example, Oracle8 and 8i include JavaBeans that process data inside the database and return the results to the application that used to be responsible for performing that processing.

In addition to this excellent article about managing databases, this issue also includes two informative articles about TCP/IP: "Switching From IPX to IP" (see p. 6) explains the options for migrating a network to TCP/IP and "Using ICMP to Troubleshoot TCP/IP Networks" (see p. 32) takes you to the packet level for troubleshooting.

The more I think about it, the change in my attitude toward technology can be traced to *NetWare Connection* writers: They make technology sound Cool.

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*NetWare Connection* is distributed to 140,000 NetWare users worldwide.

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