

Re: Looking for switch recommendations ...

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From: Wes Peters (wes_at_softweyr.com)

Date: 03/26/04

To: "Per Engelbrecht" <per@xterm.dk>, <scrappy@hub.org>

Date: Fri, 26 Mar 2004 14:25:34 -0800

On Friday 26 March 2004 11:25 am, Per Engelbrecht wrote:

> > *What is the difference between Layer2 and Layer3, and what does*
> > *that affect?*

>

> *All switching is done in layer2!*

Not true!

> *Layer3 switch 'features' (functionality) is was the vendor put in the*
> *box. Depending on the amount of \$ you're going to spent, you can have*
> *switches that can act as routers.*

In the Xylan (now Alcatel) second-generation switches (The "X-Frame" backplane) the switching hardware was capable of switching on the MAC header *or* other predefined parts of the packet if no MAC header matches were found. This feature was used to implement hardware routing (the HRE-X module), allowing us to route packets between IP networks at a million packets per second.

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"Where am I, and what am I doing in this handbasket?"

Wes Peters

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