Northern Telecom PBX LANSTAR data services

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The design and architecture of the Meridian SL-1 were specifically developed to accommodate the rapidly expanding requirements for data and voice communications. LANSTAR is the umbrella name that describes the local area networking capability of the Meridian SL-1. LANSTAR designates an entire family of data connectivity products and services. A single system can serve both voice and data communications needs by integrating the functions of a LAN and a PBX.

The most obvious benefit of using a single system for voice and data communications is the inherent efficiency of managing resources as part of one system. Cabling, transmission lines, host computer ports, terminals, personal computers, and peripherals can be administered better within a single network and a single cabling arrangement. LANSTAR also provides access to Meridian SL-1's own information services, with new capabilities such as integrated voice and text messaging.

All connections to the Meridian SL-1 are made with standard twisted pair telephone wire, already required for voice communications. By using the Meridian SL-1 for integrated voice and data connectivity, duplicate wiring is avoided. Port contention allows many users to share scarce computer ports on an as needed basis. Concentration allows multiple data devices to share a common communication line, such as a T-1 line or a modern link to a packet-switched network. Domain switching allows the connection of a single data terminal to different host computers without rewiring or manual switching.

For IBM personal computers, there is the personal computer interface card that fits inside the PC, and for the Macintosh, an inexpensive cable provides connectivity with no extra hardware. IBM personal computers may also be networked with LANSTAR-PC, which provides 2.56 megabit per second distribution to each desktop and access to a 40 megabit per second local area network. LANSTAR-PC is supported by an interface card and Microsoft Network software.

Each of these products provides a simple, economical connection to the Meridian SL-1: the standard RJ-11 jack.