INFORMATION TRANSFER MADE EASY Patrick J. Dowling

The Datapac Network is the public data communications network operated by The Computer Communications Group of the Trans-Canada Telephone System. Datapac is a virtual-call based, packet-switched network consisting of a number of switching nodes interconnected by 56Kb digital trunks. The Datapac Network went into full commercial operation on June 15, 1977.

Datapac currently provides usage-sensitive tariffed services to some 58 centres across Canada. A Network Control Centre (NCC) provides a centralized control and surveillance capability for real-time network management. The Data Collection Centre (DCC) provides an off-line processing capability for network generated statistics, alarms, and accounting data.

The Network provides a total of six subscriber access services for a wide variety of terminals and applications. Datapac services have been extended to the U.S. by direct connections with the Telenet and Tymnet networks. Overseas access is also available from many countries, including Britain, where a two-way service is provided. Other developments in international communications are also underway.

This presentation will discuss various aspects of the Datapac Network and how the Network facilitates the transfer of information particularly for interactive applications.