Communication Over a Network

The Macintosh Operating System provides many routines to support applications communicating and sharing data across a network. You can send events between applications located on different computers using the **Event Manager** or **Apple Event Manager**, and read and write low-level message blocks using the **PPC Toolbox**. You can send and retrieve information from a remote database or other data sources using the **Data Access Manager**. You can share data and files between applications on different computers using file sharing, the **Edition Manager**, and the **Alias Manager**.

In addition, you can use the network and communication services provided by the **AppleTalk Manager** or **Communications Toolbox**. The **AppleTalk Manager** provides routines your application can use to send and receive information over an AppleTalk network.

The **AppleTalk Manager** in System 7.0 supports various link access protocols (for example, the LocalTalk Link Access Protocol and the EtherTalk Link Access Protocol) that can be used for AppleTalk communication. Your application can also use a new protocol, the AppleTalk Data Stream Protocol (ADSP), to exchange information between two equal entities. Either end of an ADSP connection can send data at any time. You can use ADSP to establish two-way communication between computers-for example, for use in office conferencing. See the **AppleTalk Manager** for information on the device drivers and protocols associated with AppleTalk.

The **Communications Toolbox** provides your application with a standard interface for various communication services (such as data connections, file transfer, and terminal emulation) that are often used with a modem, other serial connections, or over an AppleTalk network. See *Macintosh Communications Toolbox Reference Guide* (available from APDA) for additional information on the routines provided by the **Communications Toolbox**.