Preface

Data communications technologies are evolving and expanding at an unparalleled rate. The growth in demand for Internet access and intranet services continues to fuel rapid technical adaptation by both implementers and developers. Unfortunately, creating an information resource such as the Internetworking Technology Overview requires a certain recognition by its authors that some information is likely to be obsolete the day it appears in print.

The authors of Internetworking Technologies Handbook approached its development with a commitment to helping readers make informed technology decisions and develop a keen awareness of this dilemma. We hope that this first release is a step in the correct direction, and that, together with other books planned for the Cisco Press program, you will be able to identify technologies that will accommodate working network solutions as your requirements change.

This chapter discusses the objectives, intended audiences, and overall organization of the *Internetworking Technology Overview, Second Edition.*

Document Objectives

This publication provides technical information addressing Cisco-supported internetworking technologies. It is designed for use in conjunction with other Cisco documents or as a stand-alone reference.

The *Internetworking Technology Overview* is not intended to provide all possible information on the included technologies. Because a primary goal of this publication is to help network administrators configure Cisco products, the publication emphasizes Cisco-supported technologies; however, inclusion of a technology in this publication does not necessarily imply Cisco support for that technology.

Audience

The *Internetworking Technology Overview* is written for anyone who wants to understand internetworking. Cisco anticipates that most readers will use the information in this publication to assess the applicability of specific technologies for their environments.

Organization

This publication is divided into eight parts. Each part is concerned with introductory material or a major area of internetworking technology and comprises chapters describing related tasks or functions.

- Part 1, "Introduction to Internetworking" presents concepts basic to the understanding of internetworking and network management.

- Part 2, "LAN Protocols," describes standard protocols used for accessing network physical media.

- Part 3, "WAN Technologies" describes standard protocols used to implement wide-area networking.

- Part 4, "Bridging and Switching," describes protocols and technologies used to provide Layer 2 connectivity between subnetworks.

- Part 5, "Network Protocols," describes standard networking protocol stacks that can be routed through an internetwork.

- Part 6, "Routing Protocols," describes protocols used to route information through an internetwork.

- Part 7, "Internet Access Technologies" describes security network caching technologies and directory services.

- Part 8, "Network Management," describes the architecture and operation of common network management implementations.

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This publication borrows liberally from publications and training products previously developed by Cisco Systems. In particular, the Internetworking Technology Overview publication and the Cisco Connection Training multimedia CD-ROM provided the foundation from which this compilation was derived.

Document Conventions

In this publication, the following conventions are used:

- Commands and keywords are in **boldface**.

- New, important terms are *italicized* when accompanied by a definition or discussion of the term.

Note Means *reader take note*. Notes contain helpful suggestions or references to materials not contained in this manual.