SprintMail X.400 Gateway

Address:
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Description

The Merit staff operates a gateway between the Internet and SprintMail, which allows messages to be exchanged between SprintMail customers and Internet users. The gateway is connected to Sprintnet and to the Internet through Merit's connections to the NSFNET.

SprintMail, operated by Sprint International, is a commercial X.400 electronic mail network providing services to US customers and access to other networks domestically and internationally. Formerly known as Telemail, SprintMail uses the Sprintnet (formerly Telenet) public data network for its e-mail connections.

Merit provides hardware and software maintenance and administration and network operations (via the Merit Network Operations Center) for the Internet gateway; Sprint provides Sprintnet connectivity and user consulting and registration, as well as gateways to other X.400 networks.

The gateway is a Sun SPARCstation-I running Sun OS 4.0.3 and Sunlink MHS. An X.25 link to Sprintnet is connected to the Sun's serial port at 9600 bps. Protocols used are X.400 Message Handling System, X.225 session layer, X.224 transport class 0, and X.25. On the Internet side, the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (RFC-822), Transfer Control Protocol, Internet Protocol, and Ethernet protocols are used.

The gateway supports a directory function that allows SprintMail customers to be registered with a mnemonic name which can be used by Internet users when sending mail. SprintMail users who wish to register can contact Sprint Customer Service.

Merit provides domain name service for the SPRINT.COM domain as well as for some other domains on behalf of some SprintMail customers. For example, the COMPMAIL.COM domain is owned by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering) Computer Society but is operated by Merit as part of the gateway function.

Network Access

From the Internet to SprintMail
To use the gateway, an Internet user can specify a registered SprintMail alias name, in the form:

John.Doe@Sprint.COM

Alternatively, the full X.400 Originator/Recipient (OR) name can be specified, (all on one line), for example:

/pn=John.Doe/admd=Telemail/o=Sprintintl/c=us/@Sprint.COM

The Internet host name after the at-sign, @, can be SPRINT.COM or another domain supported by the Merit gateway. X.400 OR names consist of a list of parameters and their values. X.400 parameters in OR names that can be used by the SprintMail gateway include:

ADMD	Administrative Management Domain
PRMD	Private Management Domain
PN	Personal Name
G	Given Name
S	Surname
DD.UN	User Name (DD is "Domain Defined")
O	Organization
C	Country (two-letter abbreviations must be used, for example, US, GB, JP)

From SprintMail to the Internet

When sending mail from the SprintMail X.400 environment to the Internet, the native syntax of the sender's system should be used. Use an *ADMD* of TELEMAIL, *PRMD* of INTERNET and *Country* of US, along with the "RFC-822" *domain defined* attribute to specify the user's Internet mail address. For example, to send mail from the SprintMail system to an Internet user whose address is jdoe@engin.college.edu, type (all on one line):

    (Site:Internet,ID:<jdoe(a)engin.college.edu>)

The angle brackets "< >" are required. The "(a)" replaces the at-sign, @, because that and most other special characters are illegal as specified in RFC 987, which makes it necessary to substitute "(u)" for underscore, _, "(b)" for bang (exclamation point), !, "(q)" for a quotation mark, ", and "(p)" for percent, %.

Resolving Problems

If a message sent across the gateway cannot be delivered, the gateway will send a return message to notify the sender of nondelivery. That notification message will explain the problem with the mail address. If you have further questions, call or send e-mail to Sprint Customer Service.