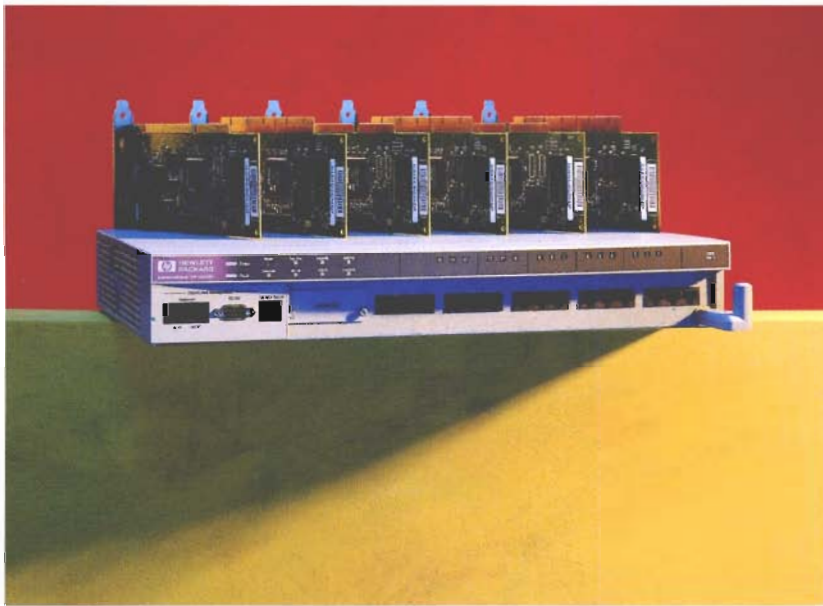




INFRASTRUCTURE

## Faster Anyone? HP's 100VG-anyLAN

By Art Wittmann



**W**anna go faster? The first standardized 100-Mbps systems are swooping down, and HP's 100VG-anyLAN products—10/100VG Selectable PC LAN Adapters and Advance-Stack 100VG Hub-15—were very impressive in our early tests. We used an IBM Pentium-based server and a mix of Dell and ALR ISA and EISA clients. Our Perform-3 tests produced a maximum throughput of more than 70 Mbps from the server. A single ISA client ran at 16 Mbps, and a single EISA client at almost 33 Mbps. Now that's cooking!

The HP cards have two RJ-45 connectors, and you can connect them to either regular 10BASE-T or 100VG-anyLAN. The AdvanceStack hub can take bridge modules that will let you connect the hub to legacy

10BASE-T networks, and an uplink port that will let you cascade the hubs. HP recommends no more than three levels of cascading.

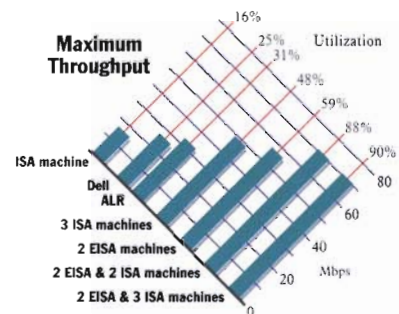
HP claims that its 100-Mbps technology, with its quartet signaling, can run over any 10BASE-T wiring. But it must use all four pairs of Category 3 cable. We used eight-foot flat RJ-45 cables to connect hubs and PCs. They work for

10BASE-T, so we wanted to see if they'd work for HP's system. To our surprise, the system ran well. In fact, we ran our performance tests on short, untwisted, flat cables.

The problem we foresee for this technology is connecting into an existing infrastructure. For now, you must slow down to Ethernet speeds to get from the AdvanceStack to your legacy network. But if shared 100 Mbps is what you're after, HP delivers.

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Hewlett-Packard Co.  
(800) 533-1333  
HP J2573A (ISA): \$399  
HP J2577A (EISA): \$599  
HP J2410A (15-port hub): \$3,750  
Availability: Now



**We tested with an EISA (HP J2577A) card in an IBM server and EISA cards in an ALR/486 and a Dell P60 machine. We placed ISA (HP J2573A) cards in three Dell P90 machines. We ran all tests with Perform3.**