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## Testing Event

# Stream Control Transmission Protocol

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has hosted a Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) testing event at its headquarters in Sophia Antipolis, France.

This was the third such event to be held worldwide and the first with IPv4 and IPv6 capable nodes. 34 engineers, representing 19 companies from all over the world, came together from 23-27 April 2001 to test their implementations. The event was sponsored by IXEurope and the European Commission (as part of the eEurope Initiative) and supported by Siemens, who provided technical support for the test bed. 14 Free BSD servers with five network interfaces each were necessary for the tests and one C class per interface.

## The importance of SCTP

The Stream Control Transmission Protocol (SCTP) is designed to transport Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) signalling messages over Internet Protocol (IP) networks. This protocol is at the same level of TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) and UDP (User Datagram Protocol), and provides a reliable transfer without sequence maintenance, while others would be satisfied with partial ordering of the data. Testing of the SCTP is critical for the advancement of a Proposed Standard to the "Draft standard" level within the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

The interoperability test was judged a great success, providing the SCTP development community with the opportunity

to debug and interact with peer companies. This helps all of the participants to assure compatibility and identify flaws in both implementations and the specification itself. In particular (besides implementation issues), participants found additional clarifications to the specification necessary in relation to interactions with IPv6.

## There are more test events to come.

This event was the first that provided an IPv6 test bed and provided great insight into the interactions between IPv4 only and IPv4/v6 capable nodes. Different scenarios were tested with message delay, message reordering and message loss. All of the SCTP implementations went home greatly improved and better able to interact on the Internet. This SCTP event is one in a series of testing events organised by ETSI and sponsored by IXEurope and the European Commission. The next test from 19-24 August 2001 will be the third "Bluetooth Unplug Fest" organised by ETSI, which is expected to draw some 500 engineers this time.

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## ETSI

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to produce the telecommunications standards that will be used for decades to come throughout Europe and beyond. Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), ETSI unites 812 members from 53 countries inside and outside Europe, and represents manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users. The Institute's work programme is determined by its members, who are also responsible for approving its deliverables. As a result, ETSI's activities are maintained in close alignment with the market needs expressed by its members. ETSI plays a major role in developing a wide range of standards and other technical documentation as Europe's contribution to worldwide standardisation in telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology. ETSI's prime objective is to support global harmonisation by providing a forum to which all the key players can contribute actively. ETSI is officially recognised by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

[www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)  
[IXEurope http://www.ixeurope.com](http://www.ixeurope.com)  
[Siemens http://www.siemens.com/](http://www.siemens.com/)

## FORSCHUNG UND ENTWICKLUNG

### Web-Dienste über das Festtelefon

Die beiden grössten japanischen Telefonbetreiber – Japan Telecom und NTT – bieten seit Juni dieses Jahres Dienste in das World Wide Web vom Festtelefon aus. Der «Umweg» über den Computer hat damit ausgedient. Was bei Japan Telecom «J-Web» heisst, läuft bei NTT East und NTT West unter dem Namen «L-mode». Zeitgleich kommen spezielle

Geräte an den Markt – nicht nur Telefone mit geeignetem Display, sondern auch Faxgeräte, die einen Ausdruck der Web-Seiten ermöglichen. Die Betriebskosten schwanken nach Nutzungsdauer und Entfernung. So bietet Japan Telecom einen Schnupperpreis von gut 3 US-\$ für eine Stunde Nutzung pro Monat, nimmt aber satte 38 US-\$ pauschal für bis zu 20 Stunden «am

Netz». NTT teilt die Kosten in einen Grundpreis und eine Nutzergebühr. Der Grundpreis liegt zwischen 1 US-\$ und 2,5 US-\$ pro Monat, je nachdem, wie gross das gebuchte Netz ist. Die Nutzergebühren kommen auf 0,07 US-\$ und 0,17 US-\$ für jeweils drei Minuten, abhängig davon, ob es eine Ortsnetzeinwahl oder eine Fernverbindung ist.