
Current Status, Problems and Future Directions of ATM Technology

The end of a dream?

Scott Bradner

Harvard University

ATM under attack

- ◆ by competing technology
- ◆ by need
- ◆ by zealots
- ◆ by complexity
- ◆ by standards process
- ◆ by ATM

Competing Technology

- ◆ switched Ethernet
- ◆ 100 Mb Ethernet
- ◆ Gb Ethernet
- ◆ RSVP

Need for ATM

- ◆ QoS is a major driver
- ◆ is it needed?
- ◆ LAN vs. WAN

Zealots

"and there is just no ATM there!
we are talking about _real_ 155MB, no fake"

Complexity

- ◆ much session-dependent state in the net
- ◆ routing
- ◆ QoS scheduling (time-share again?)
- ◆ in comparison to alternatives

Standards Process

- ◆ rather big
- ◆ rather political
- ◆ rather commercial
- ◆ rather confusing
- ◆ slow?

ATM

- ◆ the ATM dream
- ◆ was it the original mission?
- ◆ could it have been real?

ATM's future

- ◆ one of the gang