Ascend

FAQ

Pipeline 50/75/85

1. *How is the Pipeline® 85 different from the Pipeline 50 and/or 75?*

   The Pipeline 85 leverages all the features and functionality of the best-selling Pipeline 50 (like simultaneous multiprotocol routing and bridging, SNMP, telnet, syslog, token-based security, PAP, CHAP, callback and optional Secure Access™ Firewall technology). In addition, it offers the dual integrated POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) ports of the Pipeline 75 and adds an integrated 4-port 10Base-T Ethernet hub. Now you have a single-vendor solution for your small or home office and can attach your PCs, Macintosh or UNIX workstations directly to the Pipeline 85. If you want to use the Pipeline 85 with more than four users, an other vendor's hub can be "daisy-chained" from one of the Ethernet ports for up to 1,024 simultaneous users support.

2. *Can I share a single WAN assigned IP address to multiple users with Ascend's "new" Network Address Translation?*

   Yes you can. Ascend uses port mapping to allow for single IP address sharing with multiple Ethernet connected devices. If you're connected to the Internet, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will assign you a "temporary" IP address while you're on line and you can share this address with multiple users on your Pipeline's Ethernet.

3. *What does Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server spoofing offer me?*

   When you activate TCP/IP on any Windows 95 or NT workstation, the default setting is to "obtain an IP address automatically." This means that the PC is a DHCP client and needs to have an IP address assigned to it from a DHCP server. The Pipeline can now act as the required DHCP server and assign an address from its customizable pool of addresses. You might choose to assign "bogus" or "unregistered" addresses to your workstations and use NAT with the DHCP server spoofing in concert. This way, you don't have to use "real" or "registered" IP addresses, but you can still access the Internet and other public services by sharing a single WAN assigned IP address among your "unregistered" workstations.

4. *What is SmoothConnect™?*

   SmoothConnect is a new way to bundle the wide array of features and functions that make ISDN easy and cost-effective. This bundling includes the existing and recently-released features that are available on every Pipeline 50, 75, 85 and 130. SmoothConnect includes the Java-based Pipeline Configurator, AutoSwitch and AutoSPID detection, touch-tone configuration capabilities, Dynamic Bandwidth Allocation™, integrated idle timer, Network Address Translation (NAT) and Dynamic Host Configuation Protocol (DHCP).

5. *Can I start by buying a Pipeline 50, then later upgrade to a Pipeline 75? How about upgrading to a Pipeline 85?*

   Yes you can. If you purchase a new Pipeline 50 today and later decide that your could really use the analog functionality as provided by the popular Pipeline 75, you can call Ascend Order Administration at (800) ASCEND.4 (800.272.3634) and ask for the Pipeline 50 to Pipeline 75 software key upgrade. Current Pipeline 50 units are shipped with covered analog ports that are software disabled. After payment arrangements are made for a nominal upgrade fee, you'll be issued instructions and the software key necessary to turn your Pipeline 50 into a Pipeline 75. Unfortunately, there's no way to software upgrade a Pipeline 75 and turn it into a Pipeline 85 as they are two different hardware platforms.

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6. *I don't have a computer available, but I need to setup my Pipeline 75 or 85 to make analog calls. Can I configure a Pipeline 75 or 85 without a computer?*

    You can enter your ISDN BRI telephone number(s) into the Pipeline 75 or 85 by using a normal analog touch-tone telephone. Once your enter each B-channel telephone number, the Pipeline uses AutoSwitch and AutoSPID detection to determine the rest of your ISDN configurations. After the unit automatically synchronizes to the ISDN line, you'll be able to place and receive analog telephone, faxes or modem calls. Once the Pipeline recognizes the switch type and transparently enters your SPIDS (Service Profile Identifier numbers), someone from a central site (maybe your ISP or corporate MIS professional) could complete the routing and bridging configuration on your behalf. You wouldn't have to do anything but wait for the configuration to be done for you.

7. *Is the Pipeline 85 limited to only four users?*

    Not at all. The Pipeline 85 offers an integrated 4-port 10Base-T hub, but you could "daisy-chain" additional hubs from the Pipeline 85 to support up to 1,024 users (the theoretical limit of a single Ethernet segment).

8. *What advanced analog calling features are supported by the Pipeline 75 and 85?*

    Currently, the Pipeline 75 and 85 offer Calling Line ID (CLID), hold, drop, conference and transfer.

9. *How do I connect my computer(s) to the Pipeline 50, 75 or 85?*

    Pipeline family products are bridge/router devices that provide an Ethernet network connection. To connect your PC to a Pipeline, install an Ethernet Network Interface Card (NIC) and load the appropriate drivers on your PC. Use the included 2510-0084-001 Ethernet crossover cable to connect the Ethernet card in your PC to the Pipeline. This provides a LAN connection between your PC and any member of the Pipeline family (except the Pipeline 85 which provides an integrate 4-port 10Base-T hub). With the Pipeline 85, you use a straight-through cable. If you have more than four workstations that you want to put on the Ethernet segment, you'll need a hub and straight-through cabling. We recommend CAT 5 cable with RJ-45 connectors.

10. *Can I use my Pipeline 50, 75 or 85 to access the Internet?*

    Yes you can — using either "static" or "dynamic" IP addresses. If your Internet service provider only offers "dynamic" or "temporary" IP addressing schemes, you can use Ascend's "new" NAT implementation as outlined above. If you own your IP address and it is registered for use on the Internet, the Pipeline allows you to access the Internet with your own address too.

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Remote Networking Solutions That Work.™