

TPS[®]/BSC SUPPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION



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OVERVIEW

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT is a feature-rich software product that enables Binary Synchronous Communications (BSC) on an IBM® AIX® system. The product implements an API and a set of C functions allowing an application to control a BSC line. The BSC protocol may be either ASCII or EBCDIC. The API contains the basic open, close, read, and write facilities, and includes read and write commands that handle message block transmission handshaking. The product also has the ability to establish a point-to-point connection by sending or accepting a bid with a single command. TPS®/BSC SUPPORT can be used to write applications using a point-to-point or multipoint BSC line.

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT is a shared library that can be accessed by multiple programs on a single machine. It handles multiple BSC ports on the same synchronous adapter or on multiple adapters. There is no logical limit placed on the number of ports accessed by the TPS®/BSC SUPPORT product. TPS®/BSC SUPPORT does not take control of every port on a multipoint co-processor card, and the other ports may be used for other types of communications such as SDLC or ASYNC lines.

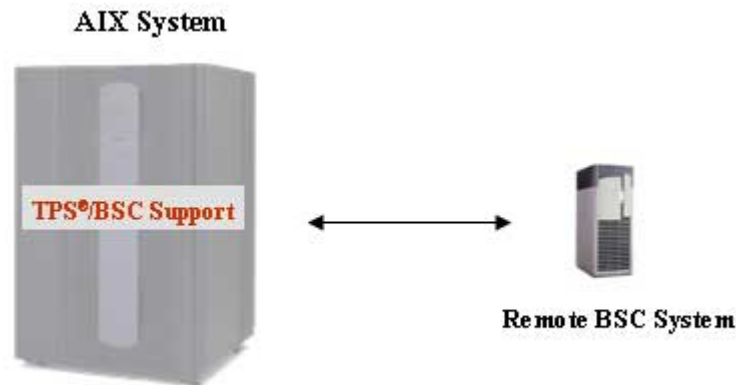
HIGHLIGHTS

- Supports both point-to-point and multipoint connections
- Supports dial-up or leased lines
- Simple API with the BSC bid handled with a single command
- V.25 auto-dial capable
- EBCDIC or ASCII control character support
- Transparent data capability
- Supports multiple ports and multiple co-processor cards
- Shared library implementation – easily upgradeable without relinking or recompiling
- Proven solution – in production throughout the world
- From [TPS® Systems](#) — with 25+ year tradition of excellence in providing network software and support for large global enterprises

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ON-SERVER IMPLEMENTATION

When compared to dedicated system or black box protocol converter approaches, BSC SUPPORT's on-server implementation has the advantages of simplicity, flexibility, control, and upgradeability:



- No (or less...) additional remote site hardware is required. For example, existing RS/6000 sites already using IBM ARTIC cards with unused ports would require no additional hardware for a BSC migration. BSC uses standard synchronous modems, so it's possible no additional modems would be required because most existing modems could still be used. Also, the need for onsite installation technicians can be eliminated – since most users can install BSC SUPPORT via a software download and no setup is required.
- Problem determination is simplified, since complete BSC traffic logs can be created through the application software.
- System upgrades/changes can occur through a central site software download.

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ARCHITECTURE

BSC SUPPORT's architecture has several strong points:

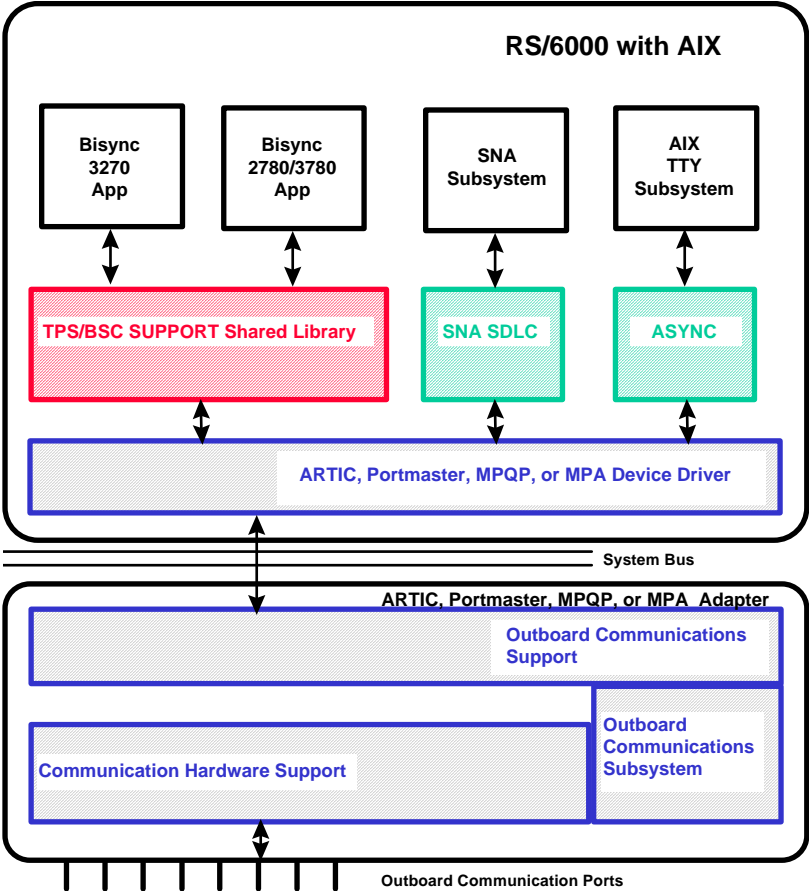
- Shared Library

BSC SUPPORT is almost totally contained in an AIX shared library. The advantage to a shared library is that it can be updated with a newer version without forcing an application to be relinked or recompiled. The library communicates with the synchronous adapter via the appropriate device driver. All aspects of the BSC protocol are handled inside the library except for calculating CRC/LRC, inserting and stripping the sync characters and the Data Link Escape (DLE) characters and the stripping of the BSC control characters on incoming messages.

- Co-processor Card Flexibility

BSC SUPPORT resides “above” the device driver software and communicates with it through APIs. Users can run the same BSC SUPPORT using many members of the IBM ARTIC family of co-processor cards

- Non-kernel code that is AIX version-independent.



FEATURES

Protocol Support

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT handles EBCDIC and ASCII protocols:

- EBCDIC
 - 8-Bit data/no parity
 - Transparent 8-Bit data
- ASCII
 - 7-Bit data/odd parity
 - Transparent 7-Bit data

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT, along with the device driver and synchronous adapter, can handle inserting and removing BSC control information -- allowing the application to just handle the data. Also, TPS®/BSC SUPPORT will handle all necessary standard protocol handshaking. The application still has the capability to format its own outgoing BSC messages and handle handshaking, if required.

V.25 Auto-dial

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT allows a user application to submit a V.25 auto-dial command to a modem when starting a connection. This allows a user application to connect to different locations simply by changing the phone number in the auto-dial command string. This feature requires a modem supporting the V.25 protocol.

Co-processor Card Support

Environment with ARTIC960Hx Card:

- Supports multiple:
 - Synchronous ports per co-processor card
 - Co-processor cards per system
- Other protocols (i.e., SDLC, ASYNC) can run on other ports of the same co-processor card
- Maximums:
 - Line Speed: 56 Kb
 - Frame Size: 4090 bytes

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

BSC SUPPORT currently requires:

Operating System:

- IBM® AIX® for IBM® pSeries (32-bit)

Other Requirements:

- An IBM/RadiSys ARTIC960Hx co-processor card and device driver

PRODUCT POSITIONING

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT is an ideal solution for either:

- Creating applications to communicate with:
 - Legacy 2780/3780 BSC systems
 - Legacy 3270 BSC systems
- Porting legacy BSC applications onto an IBM® AIX® system

CUSTOMER CONSIDERATIONS

Evaluation Licenses

Evaluation copies of TPS® software products are available for a pre-specified timeframe under the terms and conditions of the one-page TPS® Evaluation Agreement.

Return & Refunds

TPS® Systems guarantees that if a product does not meet your requirements, it may be returned within 60 days for a full refund.

Warranty Period

TPS® software products have a 90-day warranty period. After this period, customers should register for annual maintenance to receive continued technical support and no-charge program updates.

Maintenance

Post-warranty maintenance for TPS® software products is available through the TPS® Annual Maintenance Agreement. Maintenance coverage includes telephone technical support and availability of new versions/releases at no additional charge. Annual maintenance charges are 20% of the license fee per system up to a maximum per customer enterprise. Please contact your TPS® Sales Representative for further details.

Customer Responsibilities

Customer responsibilities include:

- Performing site preparation, system planning, and other vendor preparations.
- Arranging common carrier service installation and maintenance/support coverage.
- Performing product installation, setup and configuration.
- Performing routine trouble-shooting procedures before contacting TPS® support.
- Providing diagnostic or trouble-shooting information as directed by TPS® support.

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PRICING

For current pricing information, please contact TPS Systems at (210) 496-1984, or email us at sales@tps.com.

ORDERING INFORMATION

TPS®/BSC SUPPORT is available in North America under the Agreement for TPS® Licensed Programs. To order TPS®/BSC SUPPORT or for further information, please contact the TPS® Sales Department at (210) 496-1984 or e-mail sales@tps.com.