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Access Control

SiPass integrated

Peer Network Mode

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1 Introduction

This brief technical note provides recent release information about changes to the ACC, introduced in SiPass integrated version MP2.35.24. In particular, it offers detailed information on a new setting called the **Peer Network Mode**.

Introduced with three different operation modes, this new setting seeks to provide different customers with a choice of the kind of control they would like to maintain over their peer to peer networking, depending upon their specific networks.

The following sections will provide detailed information on the various modes of this new feature and general site specific recommendations.

2 Peer to Peer Network Flow Control

To get more control of the peer to peer networking throughout, a new setting called the “Peer Network Mode” has been introduced. This mode can be set to 3 options:

- Fast (Default)
- Medium
- Slow

2.1 The Fast (Default) Peer Network Mode

When set to the Fast Mode, the Peer to Peer Module expects a connection to a peer controller to complete in 20 seconds. This is suitable for sites using APB (AntiPassback) and sites that use a LAN dedicated to Access Control and Building Automation. Commands sent to remote peers from Controller Based Event Tasks will expire after 60 seconds, if a connection to the Peer Controller cannot be established.

2.2 The Medium Peer Network Mode

When set to the Medium mode, the Peer to Peer Module expects a connection to a peer controller to complete in 60 seconds. This is not really suitable for sites using APB, but will function. It can be slow to detect a network failure when running in Hard APB mode. It will also be slower to switch from Hard to Soft, when set to FailSoft APB. Commands sent to remote peers from Controller Based Event Tasks will expire after 120 seconds if a connection to the peer controller cannot be estab- lished.

2.3 The Slow Peer Network Mode

When set to “slow” the peer to peer module expects a connection to a peer controller to complete in 180 seconds. This is not suitable for sites using AntiPassback unless it is Soft APB. It will be very slow to detect a network failure when running in Hard APB mode, and will be very slow to switch over from Hard to Soft when set to FailSoft APB. Commands sent to remote peers from Controller Based Event Tasks will expire after 180 seconds if a connection to the peer controller cannot be estab- lished.

2.4 Peer to Peer Recommendations

If the APB is used, the peer network mode should be set from ‘fast’ to ‘medium’. The ideal network, in this case, is a local LAN of at least 10MBits speed that is not heavily utilised by other network devices, and is of low latency. The Peer to Peer Module in the ACC can start up to 20 connections per second in fast mode.

The ‘Medium’ Peer network mode should be used when the network is a fast WAN

– in particular when the latency is in the 10s of milliseconds. The ‘Medium’ peer network mode will reduce the network output of the ACC such that it will not, in most cases, start more than 5 connections a second.

The ‘Slow’ peer network mode should be used when the network is a slow WAN, in particular when the latency is in the 10s of milliseconds and the bandwidth is less than 1MBit. The ‘Slow’ network mode will reduce the network output of the ACC such that it will not, in most cases, start more than 1 connection a second. The ‘Slow’ network mode is not suitable for the hard or medium APB mode, because it will in turn deny access to a card user for up to a minute (or minutes).

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