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PREFACE

This is a book about Ethernet, a local area network (LAN) technology that allows you to connect a variety of computers together with a low-cost and extremely flexible network system. Virtually every computer manufacturer today supports Ethernet, and this broad support, coupled with its low cost and high flexibility, are major reasons for Ethernet's popularity.

This book provides a comprehensive and practical source of information on the entire Ethernet system in a single volume. The goal of this book is to be definitive: to describe the entire range of Ethernet technology specified in the IEEE standard for Ethernet. This includes 10 Mbps Ethernet, 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet, 1000 Mbps Gigabit Ethernet, full-duplex Ethernet, descriptions of all