

Paper Pings

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TTTO: “Paper Wings” by Stephen Savitzky

A Note on the Implementation of RFC1149

On April 28, 2001 an intrepid group of programmers in Bergen, Norway, ably assisted by Linux kernel hacker Alan Cox, stunned the world with the first known implementation of CPIP, eleven years after its original publication in RFC 1149, *A Standard for the Transmission of IP Datagrams on Avian Carriers*, by David Waitzman.

We printed them on Saturday, beneath the noonday sun;
Nine little squares of paper, with a packet on each one.
We taped each to a carrier and sent it on its way;
We’ve implemented RFC 1-1-4-9 today.

Listen for the sound of wings
That flutter on the height
We roll our tiny paper pings
And scheme of pigeon flight, pigeon flight
Pigeon flight, pigeon flight, pigeon flight.

About an hour later, from the other site we heard
Our CPIP packet was unloaded from its bird;
They scanned it in and sent the echo back on pigeon wings;
Six thousand seconds round trip time we logged for paper pings.

<http://www.blug.linux.no/rfc1149/>

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