

## **Communication Software Options and Requirements**

Several VANs have specific requirements for the communication software or enveloping that subscribers must run on their computer when using their network. These requirements may be that either the VAN's proprietary software must be used or that the commercial communication software has to be "certified" (approved) by the VAN. Other VANs are less stringent in their requirements, having already certified most communication software. They may also sell inexpensive communication software that is limited to their network.

Below is an analysis of the communication software options and requirements by VAN:

### **AT&T**

With AT&T's network, a customer either uses AT&T's enveloping software or makes use of their in-network enveloping option. AT&T sells enveloping software to be used with its network. This software is available for UNIX and MVS computers and has been integrated into several PC translation packages.

### **GEIS**

GEIS has no enveloping requirements and there is no concern about certification of communication software. Due to the size of its customer base, **GEIS** has most commercial communication software packages already accessing the network.

GEIS also provides inexpensive communication software for PC, VSE and MVS computers.

### **IBM**

IBM's network allows either IBM communication or enveloping software or open communications via their in-network enveloping option. The communication or enveloping software is available for PC, AS400, VSE and MVS computers.

### **Immedia**

Immedia requires their communication/enveloping software to be used. The software is available for PC, Mac and LAN-based computers.