New technologies bridging the gap between computer and telecommunications

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Computing and communications have long been the rivalrous siblings of the second half of this century. Each has promoted and cared for the other while quietly positioning itself for dominance. The ever increasing speed with which bits travel over the communications networks is constantly being challenged by the speed with which processors perform their instructions. Gigabit networks now service multi-megabit computers priced for individual, even recreational use.

Network and systems management has benefitted from this rivalry with Web-based network and systems management solutions the latest evolutionary twist. Devices and components were once the objects of interest for management systems; now the software and services operating on those piece parts are taking center stage.

This panel of distinguished experts addresses the effects that the convergence of computing and communications, or the continued competition of the two, have had on integrated management of networks and systems. The panel is drawn from the international telecommunications industry (CSELT - Italy and Bellcore) and from the international computing industry (Hewlett Packard - U.K. and Sun).