

TechNote      TN-113001-45  
Date:            November 30, 2001  
Subject:        Filters – Additional Information  
Applies To:    ViewComm Async, Async Plus, and Viewer

## **Introduction to Filtering in VCS**

VCS 2.5 has Display Filters. You may have noticed a grayed-out tab in the Filter main dialog that implies that there are also Capture Filters. This is not the case, but will be in a future release of VCS.

Filters can be written right now in PBF (Berkeley Packet Filter) language which is implemented in the Unix program **tcpdump**. Using BPF notation is "easy once you get the hang of it." With BPF your options for filters is virtually unlimited. Add this to the built-in Protocol, Pattern Match, and Node / Conversation Filter capabilities available in the Filter dialog and you have a very powerful engine.

### **Question:**

Why can't I select additional Internet protocols to the selections found in the Protocol Filters "Available Protocols" list?

### **Answer:**

You can but the process is undocumented and we are not in a position to tell you the specifics here. If you have the desire to add a protocol for which a .DEC file exists in the App Data\Decoders subdirectory, contact us and we will lead you through it. Keep in mind that not all protocols can reasonably be added to the list – some do not make sense.

### **What's in the Future?**

A future release of VCS will have additional filter capability including the availability of some canned filters (written by someone else in BPF).

### **In the Meantime...**

If you really need filtering capability that is not available in the dialog, we urge you to read the online documentation (or download the VCS Manual which is available on this website in PDF form:

<http://www.GreenleafSoftware.com/VCS/Downloads/Docs/VCS-Manual.pdf>

The manual page for BPF tcpdump occupies pages 84-87 and is followed by a few simple examples. As I said above, it's "easy once you get the hang of it."