“URUPAC SERVICE (ANTEL DATA NETWORK)”
LOCATION: Mercedes 884, Montevideo, Uruguay.
YEAR / PERIOD: 1989 to date (2005 when this article was written)
TYPE: Packet-switched data nodes.
TECHNICIANS / COMPANIES: Controles SA / Interfase SA
OWNER: ANTEL
SPECIAL FEATURES: Multiservice and multiprotocol data switches.

Data Transmission services through Public Networks began to be developed worldwide at the end of the 1970s.

In 1976, the first set of international standards for these services appeared, which were completed in the 1980 revision, allowing the commercial and wide dissemination of Packet Switched Data Networks.

ANTEL decided in 1988 to commercially implement this solution through a Public Network using the only standards approved by International Organizations that existed at that time.

Taking into account the successful experience in the Telex Network with national development and seeing that data transmission is a natural extension of telex communication (transmission of digital signals, using other protocols and speeds, but also digital transmission), although with a degree of complexity, with the accumulated experience, national engineering understood that it was an achievable challenge

ANTEL decided that a part of the awarded telex equipment be adapted as a Pilot Packet Switching Node. Thus, the consortium of national companies awarded the Telex Centrals begins the design and development of a Pilot Data Node, initially with availability of 32 ports.

This node will give rise to ANTEL's URUPAC Service in September 1989, integrating Uruguay through its Public Data Network into a global community of more than 120 similar networks around the world.

The Service grows rapidly and it becomes necessary to expand the initial Node to 64 ports and then to 192.

Subsequently, when the CONTROLES firm had already withdrawn from the consortium some time ago, through a Public Tender, won by INTERFASE SA competing with three international firms, the Node was expanded to its current capacity of 380 ports.