

## Overview

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This chapter provides an overview of the hardware installation and software configuration process for the communication server. The communication server connects terminals, modems, and microcomputers over serial lines to local-area networks (LANs) or wide-area networks (WANs).

The communication server is network-compatible with our routers, which you can use to extend your network to any size or configuration needed. The communication server also supports dial-on-demand routing. Moreover, the protocol translation capability provides connection service between different hosts and resources running different protocols.

This chapter outlines the tasks you must perform to set up your communication server with the features you need.

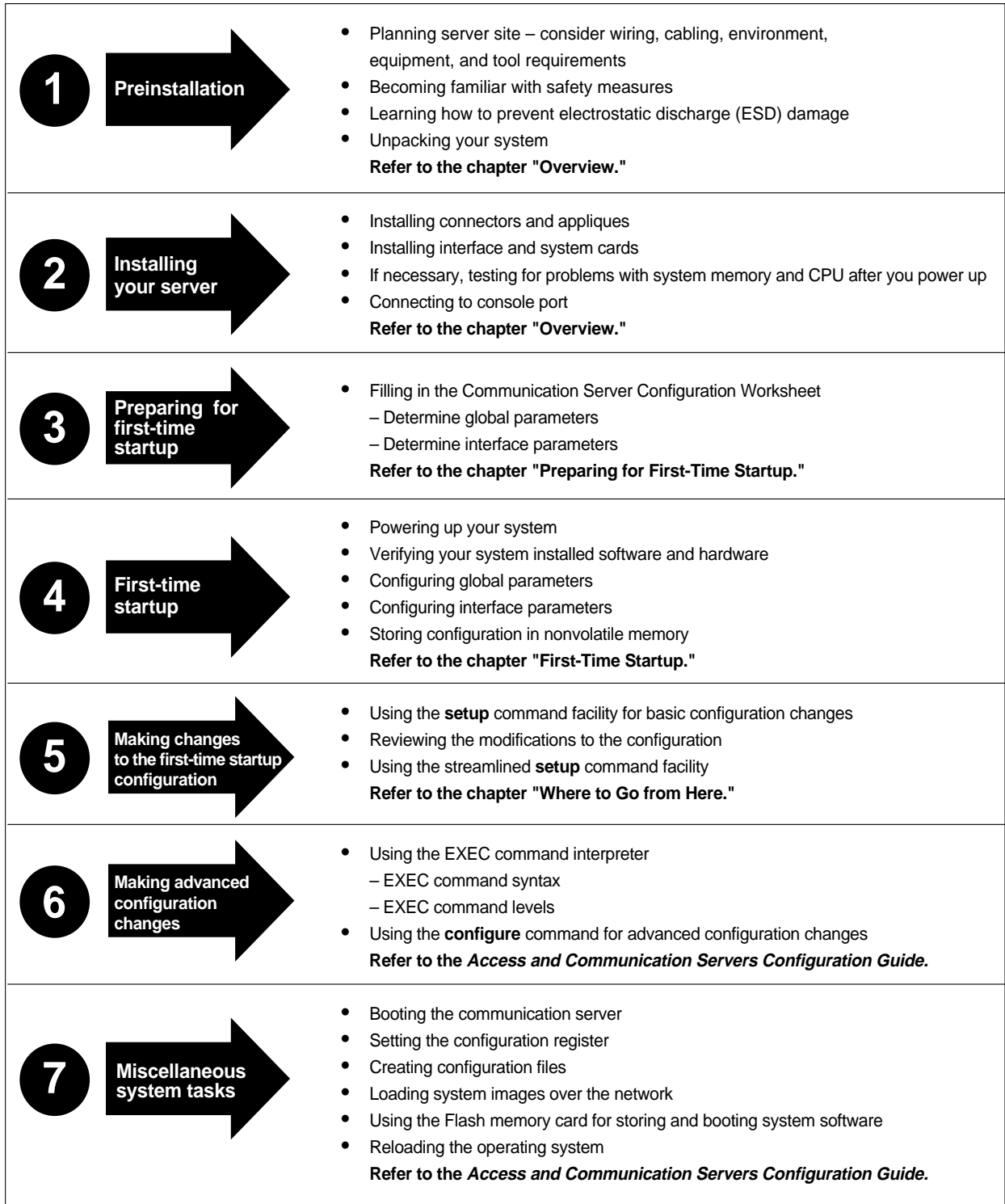
The **setup** command facility enables you to start using your communication server quickly and without extensive background knowledge by prompting you for the information required to perform basic configuration procedures.

The **setup** command facility can be used both at initial system configuration and for changes to the basic configuration at any time. The facility is also a teaching tool that helps you become familiar with the expected command sequence as you step through the configuration process. Because of these unique characteristics, **setup** is referred to as a *command facility* rather than simply as a command.

## Installation and Configuration Process

The installation and configuration process has seven phases. Each phase includes tasks that will help you use your communication server to meet your networking needs. Figure 1-1 shows the relationship between the phases and the tasks within each phase.

Detailed information for each phase within the installation and configuration process is available in either this guide or other referenced publications. A brief description of phase 1, Preinstallation, and phase 2, Installing Your Communication Server, immediately follows Figure 1-1. These phases are hardware related and are not described in a later section of this guide. Phases 3, 4, and 5 are described in this guide, while phases 6 and 7 are described in the *Communication Server Configuration Guide*. For information about specific commands, refer to the *Communication Server Command Reference* publication. For information about making network connections, refer to the *Communication Server and Protocol Translator Connection Guide*.



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Figure 1-1 Installation and Configuration Process

## Preinstallation

Preinstallation refers to tasks you must perform before starting actual system hardware installation. This phase must precede all other phases of the installation and configuration process. The preinstallation tasks are as follows:

- Planning the location where the communication server will be installed. Some of the items you should consider are site environment, cabling requirements of planned connections, modular wiring system requirements, and tool and equipment requirements.
- Familiarizing yourself with general safety precautions and specific requirements for working on electrical equipment.
- Learning ESD prevention procedures when removing and replacing cards.
- Unpacking your system. Verify that you have received everything you ordered and that shipping damage has not occurred.

Refer to the appropriate hardware installation and maintenance publication for the communication server you have ordered for more detailed information about preinstallation tasks.

## Installing Your Communication Server

After you have performed the preinstallation tasks, you must install the communication server. The installation process does not require you to install appliques, connectors, interface cards, or system cards. The communication server will be preconfigured to your specifications when you order it.

Refer to the appropriate hardware installation and maintenance publication for the communication server you have ordered for more detailed information about installation tasks.

To work with the communication server, you must attach an ASCII terminal to the system console port located at the rear of the server. The console port of the communication server functions as a data communications equipment (DCE) device and requires that you use a “straight-through” type RS-232 cable. Configure the terminal to operate at the following settings:

- 9600 baud
- 8 data bits
- no parity
- 1 or 2 stop bits

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**Note** We recommend that you make network connections before first-time startup. Refer to the appropriate hardware installation and maintenance publication for details about cabling considerations and establishing electrical connections.

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After connecting to the console port, you are ready to complete the Communication Server Configuration Worksheet. Turn to Chapter 2, “Preparing for First-Time Startup.”

