- Loading ACE software onto the network processor
- Creating and initializing each ACE
- Resolving names
- Managing the operation of ACEs
- Allocating and reclaiming resources such as memory
- Controlling microengine operation
- Providing communication among ACE core components
- Providing an interface to non-ACE applications
- Providing an interface to operating system facilities
- Forwarding packets between the core component of an ACE and the microblock(s)