THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th. August 1992

PRESENT: J.J.Bunn(Secretary), F.Fluckiger, D.G.Foster, P.Hagen, D.Jacobs, S.Jarp, C.M.S.Jones A.Osborne, H.R.Renshall, J.Richards, A.G.Silverman, D.O.Williams(Chairman).

- *MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (CN/DPG/92/MIN/6), AND MATTERS ARISING*

DOW welcomed Dave Foster and Per Hagen who were attending for the NICE presentation.

Two errors were pointed out: WDSF was in fact used mainly for workstations, and it was hoped to eventually move to a few tools, rather than just one.

There were several matters arising:

1. PARC was now installed and running. It would be reported on at a future DPG in the Autumn.
2. DOW had been asked whether the Cray could be stopped at the end of March 1993, earlier than foreseen. This would require consultation with Aleph, taking careful account of the migration solutions with CLIO and Shift, before a decision could be taken.
3. DOW had received no response to his request for volunteers to take on the job of CEART leader.
4. N.Cremel and A.Silverman had agreed to be the IHEP, Beijing contact people.
5. DOW said that he would like to see CLIO, Kerberos and Workstation Backup (follow–up) on the next DPG Agenda.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

DOW presented one item:

1. He drew attention to his paper on the financial profile of the Division for the coming few years.

- *IT'S NICE, BUT WHAT IS IT ?*

D.Foster presented the current status and plans for the NICE project, which aims to ameliorate the support situation for PCs using Novell across the site. A total of around 1500 users were registered with Novell, there were 35 file servers on the network, of which 20 were in production status. Since NICE began, it had attracted a total of 500 users, who were benefitting from its coherent interface and powerful software installation features. Users having problems with Novell were invited to send Email to *nice at dxcern*; this was the state of the central user support. He described the probable evolution of the software to Netware 4.0 and Windows/NT in the next calendar year, although it seemed likely that the minimum hardware requirements for NT might preclude its use on the majority of small PCs.

Several questions were brought up by the assembled DPG members, amongst them: what would be the long–term support effort required for NICE, how would the confused state of product licensing be resolved, would there be a recommendation for a PC mail product, and what should it be, how might Macintosh systems be supported under NICE, how could user registration be integrated with that of the main central systems, and finally how might increasing support for a proprietary system like Novell be justified in the light of the trendy view that all users should work with "non–proprietary" Unix?

DGF was asked to report again at the POW discussion in October, where some of these questions would be raised again.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

  Francois Fluckiger announced his intention to hold a zeroth meeting of the Coordination Group for Multimedia, whose purpose would be to describe various applications and their support by CN Division. The group would report to a future DPG. The members of the group were then "volun–teered": J.J.Bunn,F.Fluckiger,D.G.Foster,C.M.S.Jones, J.Richards and A.Silverman.

- *NEXT MEETING*

  The next meeting will be held on 14th. September at the usual time and place.

Table 1: Action Items

Name	Entry Date	Target Date	Task
D.Williams	April 1991	Summer 1991	Produce cover note for Costs paper
F.Fluckiger	November 1991		1992 Give Computer Colloquium on Multimedia
R.Brun	January 1992	1992	Task Force on Computing Models
A.Silverman	June 1992	1992	Elaborate on WS backup recommendations