CN/DPG/92/MIN/10

THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th. December 1992

PRESENT: R.Brun, J.J.Bunn(Secretary), B.Carpenter, F.Fluckiger, D.Jacobs, S.Jarp, C.M.S.Jones, J.–C.Juvet, M.Marquina, M.Metcalf, A.Osborne, H.R.Renshall, J.Richards, L.M.Robertson, A.G.Silverman, D.O.Williams(Chairman)

- *MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (CN/DPG/92/MIN/9)*

  The Minutes were accepted.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING*

  1. From analysis of 3270 emulated terminal sessions on the TAG system, it appeared that 10% of calls originated off the CERN site.
  2. A.Silverman said that he had analysed data from the manufacturers for workstation purchases at CERN, and that he would circulate some figures to the DPG list.
  3. DOW said that the Directorate had confirmed that the Cray contract would be terminated on March 31st..
  4. He remarked that CERN would have to proceed with caution when purchasing the latest gen–erations of powerful workstations, were these to come under DOC export regulations.
  5. He announced that John Gamble would take over from David Lord as Security Officer, when David retired in 1993. Until then, John would act as David's deputy.
  6. Fifty percent of the budget had been "released" for 1993.
  7. F.Carminati was said to have copies of the European High Performance Computing report available.

- *POW ACTION LIST FOLLOW–UP*

  Progress with items on this list would be discussed at the next DPG.

- *WORK GROUP SERVICES WORKING GROUP (WGSWG)*

  C.M.S.Jones reported that the working group had been set up with Tony Cass as secretary, and himself as chairman. The minutes were being widely distributed. C.Onions was presently the only non–CN member, although it was hoped to increase the ECP contingent size.

  There had been two meetings so far. The group was not restricting itself to analysis of Unix group servers. The discussions had been wide–ranging and fairly brief, in an effort to grasp the size of the problems. However, the requirements for the CHORUS experiment and for network infrastructure, had been dealt with in some depth. A suitable server configuration for CHORUS had been agreed, and a cost of around 150 kSFR been calculated. DOW agreed that the purchase should go ahead. A.Cass would be the system manager. The system had to be running by June 1993.

  CMSJ said that the group was keen to begin pilot studies, although he emphasised that in fact there was already considerable experience with most of the tasks and set–ups currently being dis–cussed. He was thus determined to make the best use of the existing expertise in support of group service environments. He said that answers to many of the questions posed should be clear after the completion of the pilot projects.

It was remarked that, in general, service quality tended to be directly proportional to the invested manpower, and this rule was likely to hold as well in the case of group server management.

- *STRATEGY FOR A 64 BIT PROGRAM LIBRARY*

M.Marquina described AS Group's plans for migrating a version of CERNlib to general 64 bit working. He suggested that this might involve taking the Cray version of the Library, and making from it a version for 32 bit machines which have the ability to produce 64 bit code. The task was extremely complicated, since the various supported platforms had different levels of support for long and double word arithmetic. A first move was to understand from the manufacturers themselves what the plans were for support of 64 bit words.

Copies of M.Marquina's transparencies are attached to these Minutes. He was asked to return to a future DPG with a position paper.

- *REPORT FROM THE MULTIMEDIA COORDINATION GROUP*

F.Fluckiger described the mandate and first two meetings of the group. Copies of his transparen–cies are attached. He said that the focus of the group was on desktop applications, with the main concerns being platform compatibility and implications on network traffic. Various evaluations had already been made of products, or were currently in progress, including WSCRAWL (networked shared "white–board") and DECspin (Ultrix–only video, voice mail etc.) He said that the priority application was easy exchange of compound documents.

The DPG agreed that it was essential to continue the work of the group in monitoring the use of, and requirements for, multimedia at CERN (and in collaborating institutes). It was also agreed that information such as minutes of the meetings, and discussion on multimedia topics could profitably take place in a dedicated News Group at CERN.

- *MPP PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY*

L.M.Robertson briefly described the enquiry document that had been sent to manufacturers that requested information on currently available massively parallel processor machines. Replies received from the enquiry would be used to draft a tender document. He said that some of the MPP Steering Group had visited several manufacturers in the U.S.A., and much useful information already gleaned. In addition, working machines had been tried and tested, and come conclusions on their suitability for CERN's anticipated applications arrived at. He remarked that currently the main problem with MPP architectures tended to be the high latency of inter–processor connections. However, the Thinking Machines and Kendal Sq. machines were much better suited than the rest. Significantly, these two and NCUBE had systems in the field being used by "real" users.

LMR continued by saying that, regardless of whether or not the GP–MIMD2 project came to fruition, it was intended to buy an excellent MPP machine for CERN.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

None.

- *NEXT MEETING*

The next meeting will be on February 8th., at 10:00 in Conference Room 1, Building 600.

Table 1: Action Items

This list is intended to show the items which are currently awaiting treatment by the DPG. The Entry date is the date of the meeting at which the action item arose, and the Target date is the date by which the action item should have been dealt with.

Name	Entry Date	Target Date	Task
F.Fluckiger	Nov 1991	1993	Give Computer Colloquium on Multimedia
B.Carpenter	Nov 1992	1993	Session login sources
A.Silverman	Nov 1992	1993	Workstation growth figures
MPP Steering Group	Nov 1992	1993	Make MPP Proposal
MPP Steering Group	Nov 1992	1993	Amdahl's Law relevance
L.M.Robertson	Nov 1992	Dec 1992	SHIFT Evolution Plans
M.Marquina	Nov 1992	Dec 1992	64 bit CERNLIB
J.Altaber	Nov 1992	1993	Use of VSAT for poor countries
C.M.S.Jones	Nov 1992	1993	Plans for Group Services
A.Osborne	Nov 1992	1993	Nominate WWW manager
J.-C.Juvet	Nov 1992	1993	Contract support estimate
D.Jacobs	Nov 1992	1993	MS-Mail support requirements