CN/DPG/92/MIN/2

THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th. February 1992

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

- *MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (CN/DPG/92/MIN/1), AND MATTERS ARISING*

  The Minutes were accepted without modification.

  RB presented some foils on his plans for a task force that would investigate Computing Models. A review was needed of the current use of the Computer Centre mainframes, of workstations, and of facilities like Shift, CORE, and so on. Armed with the information from such a review, one could progress to a definition of some sensible models for the future. Some of the questions that would have to be addressed included how to phase out the Cray service, the usefulness of small scale parallel systems, the computing needs of the engineering community, which model was being used for physics data analysis, and the role of massively parallel devices.

  There followed some discussion on RB's analysis. Some felt that the definition of the terms of reference for the task force were too broad, and that this would hamper obtaining timely results. The strategic planning for networking closely depended on the computing models that would be derived, and so should be a parameter in their definition. RB was encouraged to keep the aims of the task force focussed, particularly on the needs of the experiments.

  Progress would be reviewed again at the next DPG.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

  DOW said that news on the new SMCF was awaited from IBM.

  He asked about progress with the migration of the TMS service from the IBM to a dedicated server. SJ said that a technical student would arrive in SW Group this Summer to start the work. The plans for the service could usefully be reviewed at the June DPG.

  DOW said that I.Willers and R.Dobinson would be asked to present the GP–MIMD project at the next DPG.

- *AIX INTRODUCTION PLANS*

  SJ presented the plans for the introduction of AIX on the IBM. Copies of his foils are attached. Some questions were raised on how users today connected to the VM/CMS service, whether from dumb terminals or from workstations or whatever, and in what numbers. This might have a bear–ing on what sort of terminal support would be required in AIX. SJ was encouraged to add the necessary items to the AIX requirements document.

  JB expressed some concern about how the large body of diverse applications that made use of the Interlink connection to the IBM might migrate to using AIX, and if indeed this would be neces–sary. There would clearly be much work involved on the VXCERN and VXENG services if the central accounting and registration database on the IBM were ever moved to an AIX environment. SJ was asked to add an Interlink clause to the AIX requirements document.

Finally, SJ remarked that the attraction of the AIX service to users would probably be better file–serving and a better interactive environment, compared with VM/CMS. But initially, at least, tape serving and staging facilities would be poorer.

- *X.500*

MD described the X.500 directory services standard, agreed between ISO and CCITT in 1988. Copies of her foils are attached. A new specification was being prepared for publication this year. The standard describes a means of providing access to directories of user information in global way. Resolution of requests is achieved by "Directory User Agents" which refer, chain or multicast to other agents in the network. A "Directory Server Agent" actually performs the name resolution. She said that the public domain implementation of X.500, a program called ISODE/Quipu, seemed to be the most popular. A pilot project was thus being started to copy EMDIR data into Quipu.

Despite the interest in X.500, FF asked what problems we were trying to solve by adopting it. Indeed, the problem with our existing user directory server, EMDIR, was one of maintaining the *contents* of the directory, rather than maintaining the program itself. And it was unclear what ben–efits X.500 might bring in this area.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

None.

- *NEXT MEETING*

The next meeting will be held on 16th. March 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
J.Bunn	November 1991	June 1992	Present VMS/RISC
R.Brun	January 1992	1992	Task Force on Computing Models