CN/DPG/93/MIN/1

THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th. February 1993

PRESENT: R.Brun, J.J.Bunn(Secretary), F.Carminati, B.Carpenter, F.Fluckiger, F.Gagliardi, D.Jacobs, S.Jarp, J.Joosten, J.–C.Juvet, E.McIntosh, 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/10), AND MATTERS ARISING*

The Minutes were accepted. A.Silverman would distribute his paper on the growth in workstation numbers at CERN.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

1. The GP–MIMD2 Project had been signed at the end of 1992.
2. DOW drew attention to the Memorandum CN/DPG/93/8 which detailed changes of responsi–bility around the IBM Project.
3. He described how CERN Council had shaved 15 MSF off the budget for 1993. The DG had released 90% of the operations budget; any further requests from the Divisions would have to undergo rigorous peer review. DOW then circulated several draft documents that described CN's committments and intentions, and asked that the members of the DPG send comments on them to him as soon as possible.

- *REVIEW OF THE DPG ACTION LIST*

Two of the outstanding action items were discussed:

1. A.Osborne had set up a small working group to investigate how easily data on the source of logins to the main services could be collected and retained in the Accounting and Registra–tion Database. The group would make a report sometime over the next few months.
2. The MPP Steering Group had made their proposal to the DRDC.

- *MIGRATION OF ALEPH AWAY FROM THE CRAY*

A.Osborne (on behalf of F.Hemmer), reported on the status of work to assist Aleph in moving their Cray workload to other platforms, in time for the Cray removal at the end of March. He reminded the DPG that the Cray had provided an excellent batch service for a relatively small number of users. F.Hemmer had run, since the Summer of 1992, a bi–weekly meeting for Aleph users to discuss migration issues. At the end of 1992, Aleph had been the only major remaining user group on the Cray. Part of their workload had subsequently been successfully moved to VXCERN. The the migration of the remaining part to SHIFT was almost complete; there remained a few minor problems. One of these was the lack of C I/O in EPIO on SHIFT.

AO said that the CN team led by F.Hemmer had invested a lot of effort in reaching the solu–tions; Aleph had now agreed that they would declare SHIFT as being available to all Aleph users on March 1st..

DOW remarked that it was very important to ease access to the Robot from Shift.

- *STATUS OF THE MPP PROJECT*

L.M.Robertson briefly reviewed the status of work around MPP.

1. The GP–MIMD2 Project would start on March 1st.. The hardware would be a 32 processor CS2, together with 32 disks. A second stage might involve an upgrade to 64 processors. Happily, the project involved the allocation by Brussels of quite a few warm bodies, numbering three to five applications programmers.
2. The presentation to the DRDC of the MPP Plan had gone well. LMR said that he would distribute the paper to the DPG list.
3. There had been thirteen replies from manufactures to CERN's MPP Request for Proposals. The MPP Steering Group had invited eight physicists to participate in evaluating the replies. The Group had decided to retain only those machines which could be tested in December 1992, which left Thinking Machines and Kendall Sq..
4. A set of MPP benchmarks were being prepared for posting to these two manufacturers, and Intel. It was intended that the benchmarks would be run by the manufacturers, and the results sent back to CERN by March 7th.. In addition, some "useability" tests were being devised that could be carried out by non–experts in order to judge the friendliness of a given machine.

R.Brun expressed concern that there had been insufficient detailed discussion within the Division on how much manpower should be dedicated to MPP. He asked that there be a discussion of the technical merits of running applications on MPP, and wished to understand which applications were considered appropriate.

In reply, DOW suggested that RB and the MPP Steering Group should devise some appropriate applications tests for MPP machines.

- *PLANS FOR THE GIGASWITCH*

J.Joosten presented the planning for field testing a GIGAswitch at CERN starting in March. Copies of his transparencies are attached. He briefly described the GIGAswitch hardware, and the connection possibilities; the concept of GIGAswitch was rather like that of an ATM switch. He then said that CERN's current FDDI ring was about 65 km. long, and carried roughly 4000 packets per second which corresponded to a rate of 25 Mbit/sec. The maximum throughput of the GIGAswitch was 3.6 Gbit/sec. Moving from the existing ring topology to GIGAswitch would be easy. Initially, as a trial, the famous "5131" segment would be moved to GIGAswitch; the users on this segment would thus be Guineau Pigs. If all went well, the full suite of tests would be completed by June.

D.Jacobs mentioned that there were some mission critical servers in Building 31 whose stability was of prime importance. JJ replied that he was aware of them, but that making an omelette required the destruction of some egg shells.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

A.Silverman said that the offers received for the Industrial Support Contract were all reasonable, and a decision would be made soon.

- *NEXT MEETING*

  The next meeting will be on March 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
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