THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th. March 1993

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

- *MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (CN/DPG/93/MIN/1), AND MATTERS ARISING*

The Minutes were accepted. Action Items on "Shift EVolution Plans" and "Contract Support Esti–mate" are now removed. The action on login source data is transferred to A.Osborne.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

1. DOW reported on the difficult budget situation for 1993, and remarked that the situation may worsen in 1994.
2. He added that there were discussions on the possibility of moving some payment for LEP200 into 1994 to ease the 1993 problems.
3. Purchases of desktop devices had been cited as targets for future cuts.
4. A decision on the allocation by the DG of new posts was expected soon.
5. A new cartridge robot from StorageTek appeared to be interesting for local tapes at experi–ments.

- *FUTURE OF GRAPHICS AND GKS*

C.Vandoni described the present licensing situation regarding GKS packages at CERN and in the worldwide HEP community, in particular the GTS–GRAL product. Copies of his transparencies are attached to these Minutes. The present contract had been signed in 1987 with GTS–GRAL, and covered CERN and external HEP institutes. The software and service had been satisfactory until 1990, when support had deteriorated, particularly for the X–windows versions of the product. Today, there were GTS–GRAL GKS problems of varying severity on most platforms.

An offer had been received from a different company (G5G) for licensing and support of a GKS package. The offer excluded the VM/CMS and Unicos operating systems. C.Vandoni explained the financial implications of accepting this offer, obliging GTS–GRAL to provide better support, or doing nothing.

There followed a discussion on how likely it was that G5G would be any better at support in the long term than GTS–GRAL. The amount of new investment money required for G5G was, in any case, rather large in the light of the current budget constraints. In addition, concern was expressed that there was little understanding of where the demand for GKS came from in the external HEP community (at CERN, most graphics software either makes use of the HIGZ pack–age or X libraries directly).

It was concluded that there appeared to be no over–riding need to invest further money in GKS, and that this conclusion should be brought to the attention of the HEPCCC, who could correct it if necessary. R.Brun and C.Vandoni were thus asked to prepare a memorandum, for checking at C5, which would propose a freeze on expenditure on GKS, in particular with the GTS–GRAL company. **Action: R.Brun, C.Vandoni** (It was understood that CERN had the source code, and a source license, for the software.)

- *CHORUS WORK GROUP SERVER STATUS*

  C.M.S.Jones briefly outlined the history of the proposal to provide the CHORUS experiment with work group services based on a bunch of workstation servers. The pilot project had been agreed to at the WGSWG meetings, and the hardware was now ordered.

  A.Silverman continued by detailing the goals of the project, and describing the areas that were still unresolved. These included how to provide simple, location–independent access to data, net–work traffic levels, and the provision of central manpower. One area that needed a particularly speedy solution was provision of networked tape access. A CHORUS Project Control meeting had been set up. A.Cass was the system manager of the project equipment.

- *CHECKPOINT ON CRAY SHUTDOWN PLANS*

  F.Hemmer brought the DPG up to date on the status of migrating Cray users onto other plat–forms, in time for the Cray's removal at the end of March. Most of the migration had proceeded very smoothly; the Theorists had had no particular problems, the Engineers had had multivolume tape software written for them, and then moved to PARC, Aleph had had part of their application set moved to VXCERN, and the rest moved to Shift.

  However, there were still some problems remaining. In particular, the Aleph job mix on Shift had changed significantly since their early tests, and now gave rise to large numbers of stage requests which resulted in an over–population of their allotted disk space. This could be cured to some extent by additional disk space, but also required modification of the tape staging software. The increase in tape mount requests required extra IBM RS6000 hardware to serve the tape load. F.Hemmer said there were delivery problems with this hardware. Various constructive suggestions were made on where existing hardware could be found as an interim solution.

  DOW emphasised that the successful outcome of this whole area was the Division's top priority in the coming weeks.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

  None.

- *NEXT MEETING*

  The next meeting will be on April 5th., 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
R.Brun, C.Vandoni	Mar 1993	Apr 1993	GKS Memorandum
F.Fluckiger	Nov 1991	1993	Give Computer Colloquium on Multimedia
A.Osborne	Nov 1992	1993	Session login sources
MPP Steering Group	Nov 1992	1993	Amdahl’s Law relevance
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
D.Jacobs	Nov 1992	1993	MS-Mail support requirements