THE CN DIVISIONAL PLANNING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th. May 1993

PRESENT: R.Brun, J.J.Bunn(Secretary), B.Carpenter, F.Fluckiger, F.Gagliardi, D.Heagerty, D.Jacobs, C.M.S.Jones, M.Metcalf, A.Osborne, J.Richards, D.Underhill, D.O.Williams(Chairman)

- *MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (CN/DPG/93/MIN/3), AND MATTERS ARISING*

The Minutes should have read, under point 2 of "Chairman's Report", "... should notify him as soon as discussion begin.". In fact, the rule applies to *any* R&D proposals, and not just those involving the Commission.

- *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

D.O.Williams reported on the following items:

1. He had attended the HEPMIX meeting, and had been impressed by how well organised it was. The next meeting would be in Pisa in October.
2. The HEPCCC had deliberated that large IBM mainframes were no longer key components of HEP computing strategy.
3. The DEC HEP Director's Seminar in Annecy had been enlightening: DEC were attempting to "PC–ify" the company. The Alpha PC was reportedly twice as fast as the Pentium–based machine. Microsoft would probably ship Windows/NT sometime in the Summer of this year. There were already 70,000 copies of the March Beta–test version of WNT in the field. Interestingly enough, he had noticed that DEC were now scheduling shipping some of their products earlier on OSF than on VMS.
4. A report on the plans to upgrade SHIFT should be presented at the next meeting (see the end of these Minutes for a list of future DPG dates).
5. The GIGAswitch was operational in the network laboratory at CERN. The first impressions indicated that it was "solid".
6. The Division had succeeded in securing two baseline posts (GEANT, Novell), and three R&D posts (SHIFT, Databases, WorkGroupServices).
7. He rashly promised to serve coffee to the members of the DPG at the next meeting.

- *DECNET PHASE V*

D.Heagerty presented the current status and plans for the introduction of DECnet Phase V at CERN and collaborating European Institutes. Copies of her transparencies are attached to the Minutes.

She began by describing the current Phase V equipment at CERN, which consisted of two name servers, three Ultrix systems, four VMS systems and three routers . All the equipment worked. The Phase V (correctly referred to as DECnet/OSI) migration plan involved preparing the routing infrastructure so that DECnet/OSI could be installed on the test and development systems with a minimal local impact on Phase IV nodes. The Phase V set–up procedure was already much improved over what had initially been distributed by DEC. Some Layered Products, such as DFS (DECnet File System – proprietary, and not the same as Distributed File System), were not yet available, but were expected to be so soon.

She remarked that there were many application programs that relied on DECnet as a transport, and that she believed there would be some serious manpower implications if these required updating to use Phase V. She recommended that new network applications should be coded to use IP instead, wherever possible. It would be sometime in 1994 before Phase V DECnet would be bundled with distributions of OpenVMS. Phase V DECnet would be offered by DEC for Windows/NT. Phase IV, on the other hand, would never be offered on Alpha/OSF systems ...

Finally, BC remarked that he had uncovered a dusty letter in his files that mentioned the initial plans for Phase V: the letter was dated 1986.

- *ANY OTHER BUSINESS*

  The VICbus standard had been accepted by ISO: the DPG members offered their congratulations to Chris Eck and Chris Parkman.

- *NEXT MEETINGS*

  The next meeting will be an extraordinary double session. The first session will be on June 14th., starting at 09:00 in Conference Room 1, Building 600. The second session will be on June 15th. starting at 14:00 in the same place.

  Members of the DPG will be deemed to have taken note of the following information on future meetings dates:

  1. June 14/15 (AFS,ASIS,CommonStaging,CORE,PIAF)
  2. July 19 (FDDIdeployment,CHORUS,BetterUseOfRobots)
  3. August 23
  4. September 20
  5. October 18
  6. November 15

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
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