

## **STAGE Net Management Committee Meeting Minutes December 20, 2001**

**Present:** Mike Abel, John Burbank, Jerry Fossum, Jody French, Cheri Giesen, John Grosen, Steve Hermanson, Bonnie Jundt, Dorette Kerian, Darrin King, Rosi Kloberdanz, Rich Lehn, Jerry Rostad

**Absent:** Glen Rutherford

### **Background**

There has been a shared network with higher ed and state government for about 20 years. In the interim 1997 legislative session a consultant study was done on networking. The study showed that there would be significant savings if there was one integrated network.

In 1999 session it was mandated that there be a single statewide network to include: political sub divisions, higher ed and K-12.

In 2000 an RFP was sent out to vendors in four categories: transport, network equipment, internet service, and video equipment.

The contracts were awarded as follows:

- Transport – DCN
- Network Equipment – Corporate Technologies
- Internet Service – Sprint
- Video Equipment – Qwest

Qwest is supposed to provide support to videoconferencing systems, but the support is not clearly defined. All equipment should be covered even prior equipment. Maintenance contracts are recommended, especially on the PTEs because of the software upgrades.

Currently working on getting everything connected. The libraries will be connected in 2002.

Some forum was needed for the major stakeholders to be a part of the decision making process. Policy and decision making on an enterprise wide basis. In order to make the best decision the issues need to be discussed. The ability to come to a consensus and to say no are important as well.

Jerry F. will provide documentation that shows the structure of the committee.

## **Video Conferencing**

**What is the vision?** Any location that has a physical connection should have video capability. That no one is more than 20-30 minutes away from a site and that all the schools are connected.

**What is the current status?** There are 80 sites that are registered and certified. Prior to the rollout of H.323, the original IVN network consisted of less than 40 sites. Currently providing a 323 gateway depending on the composition. IVN has hired and is still hiring personnel, such as a Technology Support Specialist, Communication Outreach Specialist, Training Specialist, and a Scheduler.

**Connecting the K-12 Consortia.** Several schools have been connected for the fall semester and classes are being held. Connectivity has been provided to the Great Western Network and the Northwest V-SAT Network. Three others are in the process of being connected: the SPICE Network (Southwest group – MPEG2), the Central Dakota Telecommunication Network, the Northwest Network, and the Greater Southeast (MPEG2) Network. No dialog with the Northern Red River Network yet. MPEG2 requires more bandwidth and has a closed network. H.323 can connect with about any one.

A issue with Southwest MPEG2 the scheduling software does not include room and resources scheduling and site licenses will have to be purchased. Who will pay for the driver, maintenance and software? There should be a way to get statewide discount rates from TODD for MPEG2 sites.

Need to ensure that in the certification process that there are not duplicates sites. We need to work with other agencies on where sites are being put up. Sites should serve for dual purposes. There needs to be better communication between the requestor and the potential site.

A directory needs to be provided of what is available where. The TODD software should be able to provide some of the information, but it will be in categories (i.e. K-12, state agencies).

Any new services that are being provided need to be communicated to everyone so they may be utilized.

## **Equipment Issues**

BSC is getting transitioned over to H.323. By the end of the biennium all campuses should be switched over to ensure QoS. 2 switches are needed at BSC, ITD is responsible for the equipment at their end and BSC is responsible for theirs.

Bridging is no longer limited to 8 - H.320 sites in events that include both H.320 and H.323 sites. IVN is purchasing another H.323 Accord MCU (bridge).

Looking at other equipment such as, a touch pad or touch screen for the PTEL 970, because it has a keyboard and no notepad. Also testing the PTEL 680 system. Currently evaluating all of these items to see which would work best.

### **Virus Protection**

Current Status The state government is offering virus protection software for a nominal fee. The software uses push technology. The software is also being made available to the counties. Sendit is working with schools to purchase software which is then reimbursed by the ETC. The University system is using McAfee virus protection and has made it available to faculty and students, but it does not use push technology. Most of the campuses are using the software.

### **Active Directory**

When Win 2000 servers are installed they require an active directory. An active directory allows information to be shared with other agencies. The problem is that it needs to be set up in a tree structure if it is not properly planned then everything needs to be rebuilt. Rebuilding of the servers is a difficult task. Some other issues are: a unique name space is needed, the ability to identify state government, higher ed, and K-12, and it needs to have a authentication and authorization mechanism.

The Higher Ed and Universities are on a Unix based system moving towards a single login. The University system is different from state government because it is an autonomous system. Currently, they are working with a solution that supports multiple architectures and a single sign on. Cheri indicated that Job Service is ready to go. More discussion and possible alternatives will be needed on this issue.

### **Internet 2**

I2 should be a priority for the committee and the technical committee should understand the priority as well.

Dan Pullen is looking into the I2 initiative for the K-20 schools. A pilot project with the Great Western Network about Lewis and Clark is in the works.

I2 is available and can be used via UND and NDSU. Jerry is concerned that everyone does not need access all of the time, it should be used for specific things such as projects. Also, that bandwidth may be an issue as well. Rosi stated that I1 bandwidth would be freed up when using I2 and that may alleviate some of those concerns.

## **Logo**

There is no update on the logo. More work will be done on it after the holidays.

## **Technical Committee**

The Technical Committee leaders are John G., Bonnie and Glen, they are responsible to get it up and running. The permanent committee should be no more than 10-12 people so that there is easier decision making. Working groups will be formed as needed and could include staff from organizations not represented on the Technical Committee.

## **Misc.**

The first draft from META the study should be received by the next meeting and will be reviewed then.

A short overview of the statewide network, the identification of current projects and prioritizing them, and considering procedure and getting them in place will be carried over to the next meeting set for January 17, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.