Alan

Herewith Draft Minutes of our meeting in a simple Text format. I will do
them up pretty when agreed.

Please let me have any suggested amendments/corrections etc asap.

Regards

Ian

_____Cut here_____

DRAFT

QUESTNET EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 1991

PRESENT: Mr Alan Coulter (Chairman), Prentice Centre
                  Dr Alan Hayman, Department of Business, Industry &
                  Regional Development
                  Mr Ian Hunter, James Cook University

1.   The meeting, which was held in Mr CoulterUs Office in the
       Prentice Centre, opened at 2.30 p.m. Alan Coulter welcomed those
       attending and explained that he had called together this small
       group to discuss ways whereby the benefits of QUESTNet Stage II
       could be extended beyond the member universities to include both
       government and private organisations, it being considered that
       the Government, and in particular, DBIRD, would welcome such
       extension.

2.   The meeting began with a presentation by Mr Mark (Wilber)
       Williams of the Prentice Centre on the present technical status
       of QUESTNet. He reported that the Megalinks to JCU and UCCQ
       were commissioned in mid-november and have been operating
       satisfactorily with the exception of a rather high data error rate
       for a time (which did not cause any operational problems) on the
       JCU link, and one major failure, lasting approximately 20 hours
       from mid-afternoon to mid-morning the following day) when the
       optical fibre was accidentally damaged near Sarina in North
       Queensland. The Megalink to UCSQ has been operating at
       1.5Mbits/second since Monday 9 December after a period at lower
       speed.

       It was noted that the UCCQ and JCU links are, effectively,
       1Mbit/second links as there is a single 2Mbits/second channel
       shared as far as UCCQ. This was done with the agreement of the
       two institutions and DBIRD, to allow full implementation of Stage
       II within the funding provided. There will be some small ongoing
       cost savings for the individual institutions as a result, until such
       time as it is deemed necessary to upgrade the links.

3.   Alan Coulter gave details of the Scitec Maxima Training Course to
       be run at Prentice Centre in February 1992, which will be

attended by staff from all member institutions. He also indicated
that Prentice Centre would be monitoring and reporting on
network traffic, but stated his view that Questnet should now
really concentrate on provision of services, bandwidth (and its
use) being a secondary issue. It was agreed that while inter-site
traffic might be interesting to monitor, overall link utilisation
was more important.

Alan then tabled AARNet-produced graphs showing network
utilisation since the inception of AARNet, and the AARNet
Affiliate Members List. These were of considerable interest to
Alan Hayman, who had not previously had the opportunity to study
them. There was some discussion of the range and location of
existing Affiliate Members in Queensland.

4.   There followed general discussion on methods of promoting the
use of QUESTNet, including how it might be possible to encourage
government departments (e.g. DPI) to make available their
databases on the network. There was also discussion on
supercomputer access, during which ALan Coulter reported that
the Maspar would be on the network by December 1992.

Alan Hayman summarised the discussion so far as follows:

-       QUESTNet Stage II is in place

-       External organisations need to be encouraged to join
        AARNet as Affiliate Members

-       There has to be regular monitoring and reporting of
        network utilisation, including the facilities connected
        to the network

-       We needed to give consideration to how government
        departments and agencies could join and become
        useful

-       The supercomputer issue needed further consideration

Alan Coulter added that QUESTNet Phase III should be about
getting services on the network, rather than increasing the
network facilities themselves. This would require funding - some
of which should be provided by DBIRD and some by the member
institutions themselves.

5.   It was agreed that:

a)   It might be desirable to promote the concept of a
        Rsupercomputer for QueenslandS accessible over
        QUESTNet. Such a computer should be of a class
        unlikely to be affordable by any individual member
        institution, as it was recognised that individual
        institutions would probably wish to continue to
        provide such local facilities as they deemed
        individually necessary and affordable. This will need
        to be discussed further at a QUESTNet Management
        Committee Meeting.

                        ACTION: Alan Coulter

b)   Alan Hayman will follow up the question of
        encouraging Queensland Government Departments to
        join AARNet, with a view to their then being able to
        benefit from QUESTnet access and to provide on the

network any databases which would be of general value locally, nationally and internationally.

ACTION: Alan Hayman

c)   Every attempt should be made to attract appropriate organisations to join AARNet as Affiliate Members. This could be assisted by sending a letter to Heads of Department in each University, promoting the concept, enclosing a list of current Affiliate Members and an Affiliate Member Agreement. Alan and Ian will draft a suitable letter.

ACTION: Alan Coulter and Ian Hunter

d)   TAFE should be a primary target to be encouraged to have its Colleges join AARNet as Affiliate Members. This would probably best be done by having TAFE negotiate a central agreement with AARNet on behalf of the individual Colleges. Alan Hayman will follow this up with the appropriate Department.

ACTION: Alan Hayman

e)   DBIRD would put its Research and Development database and its General Industry Directory on the network as soon as possible.

ACTION: Alan Hayman

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

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