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Subj: SERT discussion Doc

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>Date: Thu, 22 Apr 93 09:23 +1000
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>Subject: SERT discussion Doc
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>

>Graham,

> I have just finished my initial reading of the SERT doc
> you gave me yesterday and thought it might be useful if I quickly
> gave you my initial reactions.

>

> .I think the education & training should be central
> to the whole operation. Your diagram shows it to one
> side. To me it must be arguably the most important
> function of SERT; until we get a well trained community
> we dont have a hope of controlling the problem

>

> .I think that another major role of SERT is to liaise with
> suppliers. The exercise with SUN has been very usefull and
> this should extend to others. Also suppliers are a potential
> source of SERT funding. This function is mentioned at the
> end of the doc but I feel it should be a major role up front

>

> .Should SERT have a function of security audit? We know the
> Auditor General is looking at this (albeit on a low level),
> and it may well be a marketable product. SERT comes in, reviews
> your system & network security (at some defined level),
> provides a report with recommendations and sends an invoice
> for \$10,000. I don't think we are in the field of detailed
> tight security (eg defence, banks etc) but in the wider area
> of business & govt networks (for example Transport Dept)
> there could be a good market

>

> .I realise that SERT grew out of the problems of AARNet & thus
> sees AARNet as it's primary domain. But should we now be
> restricting SERT to the AARNet domain? The real problem with
> the AARNet domain is that it has no spare money!!! If we are
> looking to make SERT self-funding (or at least partially
> self-funding) I think we must quickly extend our domain
> beyond AARNet to areas that are willing to pay for assistance.
> Of course we must also be putting pressure on the AVCC to
> provide direct funding to SERT

>

> . I have recently counted the cost at QUT. I estimated that the
> hacking in the second half of 1992 cost QUT - largely in my Dept
> and the Faculty of Info Tech - some \$200,000 to \$300,000 in staff
> time in hacker chasing and hole plugging. In addition there was
> a large loss in "university productivity" with the library being
> inaccessible via AARNet, CONVEX down for 3 weeks (which delayed
> a P/G Engineering student completeing his thesis work, forced
> him to enroll for another semester and generated an argument
> about whether he should pay fees for the extra semester)...etc
> This year I am spending \$100,000 on security equipment (dial-in
> access, bridges for labs etc) and at least that much in staffing
> on security such as Peter and others. Thus in 18 months the
> haching has cost QUT \$0.5M. You may wish to add this to the
> document.

>

> . High Level Management? Yes, we have been a bit loose up to
> now! Not that I have heard of any concerns or complaints.

>

> At this time I see two important roles for a High Level Board
> of Management (HLBoM or SERTBoM?)
> (a) to address the issues raised in your discussion
> paper and these comments and so set the important
> directions & priorities
> (b) to give the exercise a level of credibility in the
> eyes of our VC's upon whom we are fairly dependant for
> getting AVCC funding (this would include Ted Brown
> on the AARNet Board). [I know from UQ & now from QUT that
> one thing which scares the living daylight out of VC's
> is well-meaning academics (or others) running round
> generating committments on the Uni without any clear &
> respected management over them!!]

> Thus I see it as critical that we get a SERTBoM together &
> formalised fairly quickly with advice on the mission, immediate
> goals, projections and management structure to our VC's. I think
> a lot of this could come out of your present paper. BUT the
> problem we all have is TIME.

> First who? I guess it has to involve AWC, you, me, GRD. I feel
> it would be useful to get a couple of other of our senior staff
> (eg Ross G) to help spread the workload, as well as a bit of
> a wider involvement and continuity, backup etc. Should we get
> some outsiders (Bill Callie springs to mind; what about someone
> from the Govt such as Dennis Luttrell?).

> Next how? I really believe that the only way is for the gang of
> four (you, me AWC & GRD) plus scribe (DRF? alias Danny) to lock
> ourselves away for a day and do it. I'm sure any of us can get
> a meeting room for a day & arrange lunch. (OR for a more relaxed
> atmosphere, up the coast after work one evening, dinner & prelim
> discussion, Chez Noad @ Peregian for overnight and work the next
> day?)

> .The final point, not really addressed in your paper, is timing.
> I think the really important opportunities for SERT are in July.
> We should be giving papers, preferably keynote papers at
> OZCause, Winter Workshop and the thing you mentioned yesterday
> SAGE?? At those forums we must clearly show we have address all
> the issues, have a clear, recognised management structure, have
> a clear set of goals and priorities and can supply service.
> For example if SERT is asked in Rocky to come and give a 3day
> training course to QLD Alumina in Gladstone we can say YES and
> we can do it on such & such dates!
> Thus I think it important that we move real quick to meet,
> structure, formalise and resolve our goals & issues.

> Well, I'm afraid my initial comments rambled on a bit longer
> than I originally intended Graham. They sort of developed a bit as I
> was keying. However hope they are of some assistance. I will reread
> your draft and try to come up with a few more rationally considered
> points that may help.

> Cheers,

> John

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