

## SERT Preliminary Board Meeting

### AGENDA

1. Preliminary SERT Board Formation
2. Board Members
3. Organisation
4. Funding
5. SERT Authority
6. SERT name change to ASERT or AUSERT or Other?

### Agenda Item Notes:

Discussion paper by Graham Rees attached.

#### 1. Preliminary Board Formation

The following is a quote from the announcement of the formation of SERT:

-----Start Quote-----

SERT - Australian Security Emergency Response Team

As from 8 March 1993 the Australian Security Emergency Response Team is in operation. SERT is an initiative of the South East Queensland Universities. Cooperative arrangements are in place between SERT and AARNet, CERT and the Australian Federal Police.

The Australian SERT aims to provide a community response to computer security incidents within AARNet. The method of operation will be very similar to CERT.

#### HOW SERT HAS BEEN FORMED

SERT is a cooperative initiative of the Computer Centres of The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University. Cooperative and/or working arrangements have been established between SERT and the AARNet Management Team, The Internet Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) in the USA, the Australian Federal Police and the Information Security Research Centre at QUT.

SERT has been funded for the first six months by the three initiating Universities. A review of the success of the operation and alternate sources of funds will determine whether SERT will exist and how it will operate after that time.

-----End Quote-----

SERT has now been operating for two months. The community response has been excellent and relationships with other organisations and authorities are developing. It has become apparent that SERT needs to be recognised as the AARNet security authority to cement these relationships.

The three ccdirectors-uq,qut,gu are suggesting a preliminary board which will primarily be aimed at establishing SERT ownership, authority, terms of reference,

basis of operation and legal standing. It is their unanimous view that SERT should be "owned" by the AVCC. There are a number of ways in which this might be achieved. Hopefully a proposal could be put to the next AARNet Advisory Board meeting (in June).

## 2. Board Members

Initial SERT Board Members are suggested as the three directors (Alan Coulter, John Noad, Geoffrey Dengate), two SERT staff (Graham Rees and Danny Smith) and two AARNet.

## 3. Organisation

SERT presently operates (legally) as a part of UQ, although GU and QUT also have some responsibility. How is the group to be organised under the new regime?

## 4. Funding

The issue of funding is addressed in the discussion paper.

There is a problem of short term funding. There is a high demand for SERT to appear at conferences and seminars in Australia. As well it is essential to attend the FIRST conference and Incident Workshop later this year in the USA. This demand is much higher than expected. Additional funding of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 is required.

## 5. SERT Authority

It is expected that formal arrangements regarding SERT will take some time. It would be expedient for SERT to operate with the authority of AARNet during the six month pilot period.

## 6. SERT Name

It is suggested that SERT change its name to avoid confusion with CERT (which is pronounced sert). A unique Australian identity is felt to be advantageous. Either ASERT or AUSERT or AuSERT or auSERT have been suggested.