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From:   UQVAX::CCCOULTER      18-JUN-1993 10:06:12.09
To:     D.FIELDING
CC:     CCCOULTER
Subj:   AARNet Regional Issues

Derek,  The following is for your information

Alan C


> From: UQVAX::CCCOULTER     17-JUN-1993 11:37:05.99
> To:    IN%"T.J.Mullarvey@avcc.edu.au"
> CC:    IN%"questnet-mgt@cc.uq.edu.au",CCCOULTER
> Subj: AARNet Regional Issues
>
> Dear John,
>
> Paper on regional issues which you requested via John Noad.
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>                  DISCUSSION ON QUESTNET/AARNET RELATIONSHIPS
>
>         Alan W Coulter - Chairman, QUESTNet Management Committee
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>
> Universities are a national and global community of scholars.  We are funded
> primarily by the Federal Government although there is an increasing propensity
> for Universities to increase the proportion of funds from other sources.
>
> In Queensland at least Universities are established under State Legislation
> and as such they are state public authorities and must meet State Government
> requirements in such matters as Public Finance Standards, Purchasing, FOI
> and the like.  Additionally, as Public Authorities of the State, they are
> expected by the Government to contribute to the development of the State.
>
> Apart from political differences across the various States, there are
> differences in area, distribution of population, nature of commercial,
> industrial and primary industry development.  There are also differences in
> climate, for example, the problem of rain attentuation in Northern Australia
> which can have impacts on communication.
>
> Within Queensland, there is a great need for regional development.  The
> QUESTNet Management Committee has discussed the desirability of the expansion
> of QUESTNet through greater distribution to regional areas, particularly havin
g
> regard to current and projected distance education needs of Universities, rura
l
> health programmes, TAFE requirements and continuing education programs in
> primary industry, engineering, teaching, veterinary medicine, regional researc
h
> stations, etc.
>
> There has been discussion between Directors of Computer/Information Technology
> Centres at Queensland Universities and I will summarise some of the major
> conclusions.
>
> There is a unanimous agreement that the present organisation of AARNet has
> served us well.  We are of the view that the central control of the engineerin
g
> of the network and standards will remain a prerequisite to future developments
> that are of the same high quality as has been achieved to date.
>
> There are certain national services e.g. Archie, Directory Services, VAT and
> SERT that should be common for the whole "au" domain.  We need to be
> represented on IETF.  There is strong argument for critical mass in terms of
> external representation with external organisations, government lobby, funding
> national developments, contractual matters, negotiations with service provider
s
> and so on.  The ownership of AARNet by AVCC Inc. ensures that all of the major
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> stakeholders are represented through their Chief Executives on the 'holding
> company' of AARNet.
>
> Having said this, I will return to the problem that Universities in the main
> are public authorities of the State Government and they are expected to play
> their part. The States are vastly different in area, geography, population
> distribution and so on and will require different network topologies. If, for
> example, the State established a major high performance computing and
> visualisation centre and upgraded network capacity, they would not wish to pay
> AARNet for traffic circulating within the State.
>
> The problem is not trivial but can be solved. There are many models. There i
s
> a general agreement that whatever is adopted should be flexible and meet
> changing conditions over time. To some extent, we may need to change
> structures as Internet changes.
>
> All of the models considered by us through E-mail discussion would seem to
> point to an AARNet fee comprising of a membership fee and a volume fee. The
> membership fee for a "basic national service" would be paid direct to AARNet b
y
> each member institution.   (There are some contractual reasons why membership
> fees for affiliates should be collected by the member institution and passed o
n
> to AARNet.) The volume charge to AARNet would be calculated on the traffic
> flowing into the AARNet national backbone from the region. It would be up to
> the regional organisation to determine the basis for apportioning these
> charges. I would imagine they would still be paid direct by the institution t
o
> AARNet to avoid bureaucracy. Such traffic out of the hub would, of course,
> include traffic generated by affiliated members and ensure AARNet received ful
l
> recompense (which I doubt they do now). Indeed (and without going to the
> detail now) this proposal will solve most if not all of the problems many of u
s
> have now with the affiliate membership scheme.
>
> There is a strong feeling that the membership of the AARNet Board should
> include a representative from each region appointed by the AARNet Regional
> Committee. This immediately assumes that there will be a regional committee
> which we envisage would comprise the member institutions of AARNet plus a
> representative from QUESTNet. In the current circumstances of this State,
> there would be a need for a second committee of QUESTNet which would have much
> wider representation and deal primarily with State issues.
>
> I think I have summarised the position at least sufficient to introduce
> discussion.
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> (The matter was discussed by the QUESTNet Management Committee. It agreed wit
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> the discussion paper and resolved it be sent on for the information of the
> AARNet Board)
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> Alan W Coulter
> Chairman
> QUESTNet Management Committee
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