

AARNet Directory Services Project Face-to-Face Meeting April 18, 1991 Sydney University

Thanks to David Phipps, Computing Services, Sydney Services for hosting this meeting

Attendees

Graham Rees, UQ
George Michaelson, UQ
John Resauer, SU
John Mann, Monash
Andrew Waugh, CSIRO
Mark Prior, UA

Stephen Chong and Terry Stillone from SU sat in as observers.

Apologies from Geoff Huston who did not know about the meeting. Apparently some problem here with the mail distribution list.

EQUIPMENT

The External Research Program (ERP) contract with DEC has not yet been returned. This will be circulated asap as there are some contractual obligations to be met.

Equipment from DEC was due for delivery. SU system was complete but other systems would be shipped short of some memory, which would follow later (estimated end April by DEC). (The SU machine was delivered during the day).

GENERAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Report required for AARNet Board next meeting May 31 [GR]

Project archives will be set up on a machine at UQ [GGM]

The mail distribution list will be aarn-ds for project participants (the other lists will be deleted). A working group list for a wider audience will be generated as and when required. [GGM]

GGM to look at accessing the latest docs from ucl, eg ietf and internet drafts. [GGM]

HARDWARE INSTALLATION

Expect hardware delivery within a week. Equipment to be installed by sites (no DEC install included). Memory should follow by end April. No problems expected with installation

ULTRIX INSTALL

GGM estimates a week for software install at most. Basically it is recommended to use the DEC defaults with suitable adjustments to partitions as required. GGM to propose a suggested set-up for Ultrix systems.

Each site should make its own arrangements re management and backup of the system. This is somewhat site specific.

ISODE/QUIPU INSTALL

A standard for installation of the ISODE / QUIPU software will be developed. This will facilitate easy and quick installation and sharing of applications software in the AARNet context.

(Much technical discussion at this point).

[GGM] to coordinate a technical document

[JR] to write installation scripts

NAMING SCHEMA

We require to develop a Naming Schema to include the structure of the DIT and the object classes and attributes to be supported. (This has been a problem in the USA where a standard naming schema has not been agreed).

AW is a member on the SAA and detailed the present status of the SAA draft Standard. A new draft version is due for publication in the near future. There are also a number of relevant Internet drafts. AW will compare these proposed standards and circulate differences and recommendations for this project, although there does not, on the surface, appear to be major differences. There was a great deal of discussion about this topic. Some of the more salient points and agreements were:

- Basically the SAA standard will register any unique organisation name under c=AU where the organisation has legal ownership of the name. For example, any company name registered by the Australian Companies and Security Commission. There will also be l=<state names>.

GR and ALL to check whether university names are registered Australia unique?

- We prefer to adopt Australian standards if there is a difference to the Internet. However these issues will be documented by AW for circulation and discussion.
- It is recommended that the Universities should registered under c=AU.
- It is recommended that the directory tree under each or=<some university> not be structured too deeply, possibly only Division. This makes the searching much easier and quicker. (AW noted that CSIRO had made their directory some 5 levels deep and they now recognised that this was not a good idea).

AW to sound out whether to and what form an approach about this project be made to the SAA. GR to check with AARNet Board as well on this matter.

- Naming of the DSAs is also important. GGM to ensure access to the relevant IETF documents on this topic and circulate a discussion paper.

OBJECT CLASSES AND ATTRIBUTES

What information do we want stored? Initially object class will be oriented to people. Suggested content to include:

- Name
 - Title and Division
 - Telephone, Facsimile
 - Electronic Mail Address
 - Location on campus (building and room number, map reference)
- (Some of this data may be difficult to get)

[GGM to drive a discussion to detail this schema]

GETTING A NATIONAL DS/DIT RUNNING

The main problems are:

1. How to bootstrap the QUIPU directory so that it comes up in a meaningful way as part of the AARNet DS and,
2. Populating the directory.

The bootstrapping process will be catered for in the ISODE/QUIPU AARNet distribution.

It is estimated that populating the directories could require 2/3 months. This is a major problem area and a major cost. Generally sourcing the required information is not easy and obtaining accurate data could be an even bigger problem.

The prime sources of the required information are staff (and student) records and telephone directories

A brief survey of the project partners reveals:

- UQ has access to payroll and PABX data base and there is a long term commitment to this. UQ has installed a new PABX and associated telephone information system. It has proven very difficult to populate this data base accurately. However this should be up to date by the end of May. Experience says don't release information if the directory is not up to date.
- SU will be installing a new PABX. DO have access to telephone records but no agreement yet for access to staff records. May be up to 12 months before access to all necessary, up-to-date information.
- Monash has agreement to obtain a snap shot of staff records. No arrangement yet for further update information. The Computer Centre controls the PABX so access to telephone information is no problem. The policy is there but mechanism for populating and maintaining the directory needs to be established.
- CSIRO no commitment as yet to maintaining an X.500 directory. MIS has not really been approached. Needs to be demonstrated to show the real benefits. Could just generate a DIT for part of CSIRO, eg Div of Info Tech, but resources to do this is a problem.
- UA has commitment to get data from human resources. Probably use bulk loading scripts developed by George and Chris. No long term commitment for update information as yet. PABX has just been taken over by the computer centre, but directory is in a mess.

Summary

Sources of data are the staff (and student) records and PABX data base. Policy to allow access to this data is required. The data from these sources may not be very accurate.

Other Technical Issues noted but not discussed in detail.

- NSAP Registration
- OSI OID registration

DIRECTORY USER AGENTS

There are a number of DUAs available and under development. It will be some months before we can undertake any developments as part of this project. Need to survey the present DUAs.

AW will collate list of known DUAs and developments and a list of desirable DUAs and/or features for development. There does seem to be a lot of development going on in this area and we should attempt to take advantage of this.

This would be a good area to involve other people (outside of this project). For example, Computer Science students doing projects. (There has been some enquiries regarding this).

UQ was arranging a demonstration of directories at the QUESTnet Winter Workshop, at JCU in July. This could probably form the basis of other demonstrations, particularly the AARNet Networkshop in December.

AW to look at other interesting tress which might provide interesting demonstrations to show the value of this technology.

INTEROPERATION

GR to check with Telecom and CiTR regarding the possibility of testing interoperation with other directories.

OTHER DUAs

A list of other DUAs, eg for management and maintenance of the directory needs to be compiled.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark will be in Europe during July and will look to include some ds visits.

It was not possible to join in the OSI-DS international video conference due to the short notice. We will see if it's possible to participate in the next.

Video conferencing within Australia would cost about \$2,000 per hour to include the four cities involved. Travel is still the cheapest alternative.

Mark is to test ISODE/QUIPU against OSF/1 now available from DEC. This will be ordered and sent to UA.