

NETWORK MANAGEMENT Meeting
December 4, 1997

The first meeting of the Network Management constituent group took place at CAUSE's annual meeting on December 4, 1997, and hosted 37 attendees. The official definition for this constituent group is as follows:

"This CAUSE Constituent Group provides participants with an opportunity to share ideas and concerns about supporting data networks. Topics include management, hardware and software standards relating to network connectivity, support, and various "tricks of the trade." This group usually meets at the CAUSE annual conference, and uses an electronic discussion list to discuss issues on an ongoing basis throughout the year."

The meeting on December 4th was, I think, productive, and allowed network managers to share concerns and ideas about managing data networks. Periodically straw votes were taken to determine what the normal practices were by members of the group.

The group's Listserv, recently implemented and sponsored by CAUSE, has, until now, remained largely dormant. Attendees of the constituent group were encouraged to start to use the Listserv as a means of continuing the discussions held at the meeting.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were the following:

- * Related Listservs include RESNET.
- * Staffing for network management
- * Funding issues, including centralized vs. departmental funding models, one-time capital funding vs. on-going maintenance funding, and grant funding.
- * Centralized vs. departmental management of servers and other network components. (About half the group centrally manage servers.)
- * Outsourcing of network management
- * Provision of HELP desk and after hours support
- * Bandwidth
- * Dial up access, outsourcing ISP connections, and modem pool issues. (The observation was made that an appropriate modem pool size is no less than 1 modem per 10 users.)
- * Local interconnects for ISP into local campus.
- * WEB Page provision for students, faculty, and staff.
- * Network security for "open" or "public" ports
- * Security and authentication
- * Password change policies
- * LDAP & Kerberos

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