



Network Management Constituent Group Meeting Minutes

Session: Thursday, October 3, 4:55 – 6:10 p.m. (14 participants)

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Wireless:

Generally everyone believes that they have a long way to go in implementing wireless in a way that they would find acceptable.

Security was a primary concern for many of the attendees. This primarily included the ability to ensure that those who are using the network are authorized to do so. Specific discussion was given on the use of Varnier and Bluesocket access controllers. There were several of the schools attempting to solve this problem with MAC address registration.

Traffic Management:

There were several people interested in a discussion of bandwidth control, in particular, as it centers around p2p applications such as KAZA, Morpheus, and BearShare. Several products were being used by participating members including QOS control under Cisco IOS, Packeteer, and Emergent Management solutions. They were primarily being targeted at the Dorm or Housing areas at this time.

Cable TV:

Several of the attendees were very interested in what other institutions were doing with Cable Television support on their campuses. Many were concerned about trying to manage cable TV infrastructures without any allocated budget dollars. Some discussion was also made about the cable infrastructure architecture, and included many instances of using old Data broadband plants for cable distribution. But the general consensus was that there was not much support from the campus administration for the support of the cable TV plants on campus. No one appears to have any dedicated personnel for cable TV support.

Infrastructure Refresh:

Almost all of the schools participating in the group were actively attempting to refresh their current network infrastructures. There was a remarkable degree of commonality in the approaches with almost all attendees having fiber backbone systems, fiber to the IDF closets, and either enhanced cat 5 or cat 6 cables to the desktop. Generally speaking everyone was attempting to dual home buildings with high-speed interconnections. Where possible all participants were including redundant high speed connections from the core to buildings, including gigabit Ethernet, fast Ethernet and ATM OC3s. Generally the designs appear to have included stackable switches in the IDF closets, aggregation switches/routing at the building entrance points, and Multi-Gigabit core networks.

Most of the participants were outsourcing cable installations, with local campus support being used by some for ad-hoc and very small projects only.

Staffing:

The largest amount of time and interest during the meeting was spent on the subject of staffing. We put up a chart based upon the school, network size, Network Engineers, Network Installers, security people and whether they were running a 24/7 Operations center. However, there was a very wide variance in the scope that their personnel covered. In particular, some of the units supported data, voice, and cable TV while other units supported only data. In addition, some of the schools also pulled and connected cabling for the infrastructure. Other institutions were also utilizing student assistants for various functions, and the numbers of staff shown represent the number of equivalent staff personnel that were represented by these student assistants as determined by the representative from the school. The table is attached below on the support people from each school.

School	Network Size	Network Engineers	Network Installation	Dedicated Security	24/7 Operations
Georgia State University	30000	4	9	2	Yes
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	15000	3	4	0	No
DePaul	10000	2	4	1	No
University of Hawaii	30000	5	18	1	Yes
State University of West Georgia	9000	3	4	1	No
Smith	5000	1	0	0	No
Brown	16000	2	4	1	No
Oakland University	12000	2	1	1.5	No
M.S.N	4000	1	2	0	No
University of West Florida	12000	2	2	0	No
University of the West Indies	5000	2	2	0	No
Xavier University	5000	1	3	1	No
University of New Hampshire	16000	3	2	1	No
Emory	40000	4	4	2	Yes

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