

From: UQVAX::CCCOULTER 31-AUG-1992 13:40:36.32  
To: D.FIELDING  
CC: CCCOULTER  
Subj: Network CRC

Derek, For your information. It seems to me a strange way to establish a major national infrastructure.

alan C

> From: IN%"cook@citrus.citr.uq.oz.au" 31-AUG-1992 08:40:38.01  
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> CC:

> Subj: Research data network CRC

>

> This is to let you know what happened at the \$13.17M meeting on Friday.

> Does a.coulter or cccoulter work these days?

>

> Those present were:

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> Christine Astley-Boden - as chair, Simon Pelling (CRC Secretariat)

> Frank Hambly, Geoff Huston (AVCC, AARNet)

> Bob Frater, John O'Callaghan (CSIRO)

> Ray Freeman (AOTC) [Optus did not attend]

> Rob Starkey (DEC), Glen Whytewick (IBM)

> Rob Cook (CRC for DST), Simon Poole (CRC for OFT), Robin Stanton (ANU)

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> The money will only be made available to fund a CRC. It is provided as  
> up-front money over 1992/3 (\$9M) and 1993/4 (\$4.17M). The matching  
> funding required for a CRC can be spread over all 7 years. The CRC must  
> behave much like all other CRCs - ie it must do research and education;  
> however in this particular CRC it is clear that a significant amount of  
> money must be spent on infrastructure.

>

> Discussion on research came to 2 conclusions:

> 1. most of it will be in the applications layer and focus on the  
> provision of services, likely to be broadband oriented

> 2. a likely model is for a CRC kernel to contract out much of the  
> research (& education?).

>

> Discussion on education mentioned distance learning, CBL, use of  
> broadband services etc.

>

> Discussion on structures indicated that this CRC will have to have a  
> policy board, consisting of participants, much like any other. It is  
> considered important that operations and research are separated. The  
> CRC is likely to have an operations group, or be linked to the  
> operations organisation, and be linked to a number of research groups.

>

> Industry participation may be in the form of infrastructure provision  
> (Ray Freeman mentioned a bunch of ATM switches), and in the form of  
> contributions to research projects.

>

> At this point the AVCC attempted to seize the agenda, the working group  
> and the money. They proposed a working group chaired by Don McNicol and  
> largely consisting of AVCC representatives. CSIRO countered by  
> proposing Tony Henshaw to chair the group and this was accepted by the  
> meeting. The AVCC will fight again another day, I would think.

>

> The working group nominated consists of:

> Tony Henshaw (CSIRO and IRDB) - chair

> Don McNicol and Geoff Huston (AVCC)

> Melfyn Lloyd (CSIRO), Glen Whytewick (IBM), Daniel Holland (DEC),

> Jim Park (Telecom), Optus and Fujitsu representatives, Robin Stanton

> and a CRC for DST rep.

>

> This group has an awesome task. They have to come up with the  
> participants - who have to be financial participants in some way, the  
> programme, the network plan and write a 20 page proposal before 23rd

> November. An outline is supposed to be available within 4 weeks!

>

> One particular problem is that everyone will want to have had the  
 > opportunity to become a participant - after all this is a national  
 > facility - but few will actually get serious, and even fewer in the time  
 > frames available. There is a proposed workshop to expose and market the  
 > idea to the wider audience - Christine asked for this in 2 weeks time,  
 > but that sounds impossible to me, and makes me worry about the whole  
 > venture.

>

> A possible outcome is a CRC dominated by the AVCC and CSIRO, with  
 > Telecom and perhaps Optus as participants, and small contributions from  
 > a number of multinationals and local companies, and a swag of research  
 > organisations with very little contribution each. CSIRO and the  
 > Canberra mafia are likely to be in a powerful position. About half the  
 > cash and most of the matching contributions might be spent on  
 > infrastructure - say, \$30M+ in cash and kind. This would provide first  
 > a Fastpac10/Fastpac2 mix as a backbone, and an experimental ATM network,  
 > moving towards an ATM backbone in 5-10 years time. \$6M in cash would be  
 > available to fund research, and this might garner an additional \$6M  
 > in-kind from participants - perhaps more later-on.

>

> There is an opportunity for us to propose to CSIRO a set of joint  
 > research projects, built around the DSTC and the potential for  
 > industrial use by DSTC clients. I'll talk to John O'Callaghan and Ross  
 > Pitt this coming week. If we were really pushy, and asserted early UQ,  
 > DSTC or TechQuad contribution, we might be able to take a leadership  
 > role.

>

> The first working group meeting is supposed to be next week. Assuming  
 > Tony Henshaw will take on the job... I'll try to talk to Tony on  
 > Monday.

>

> What do you think? Early reactions - before the 1st working group -  
 > meeting would be especially valuable! Do you want to slot a  
 > contribution or two into the Networkshop? It is a bit late, because the  
 > decision on this CRC will be taken on 10th December, but it will no  
 > doubt be of great interest.

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