

Computer Steering Committee

Minutes of the meeting: Apr 24, 2001, 4pm, prepared by Dan Grayson.

Members present: Ando, Bergvelt*, Dornhoff, Fossum, Francis, Galway, Grayson, Hildebrand, Sullivan.

Advisory members present: Chappell, Shannon.

Absent: Roberts, Weichsel.

Minutes of April 17 were approved.

Shannon would like the staff to have voting rights in this committee.

Hiro Asari received an attractive offer we can't match, so it looks he will be leaving by the end of the summer. We will have then probably only two relatively inexperienced Graduate student consultants, plus some inexperienced undergraduates. Unless we find some very experienced graduate student willing to take a consulting position it might not make sense to hire a third consultant, as Shannon would not have time to train them all, and get other work done. Bergvelt will ask Rosenblatt to approve the hiring of two consultants, and to be prepared to hire another one next Spring.

The meeting about Coble Hall took place, but the CCSO network staff was not there. Shannon will talk to Brian Cockerham, who is in charge of the wiring project. Computers for Coble Hall have been ordered, and when they arrive, there will be a place to store them. Hiro will be here through the end of May, and can help with installing the new computers. There will be a good security system with an alarm for the new computers.

Training sessions for the new consultants will soon be more frequent, 2 or 3 times a week.

Paul will do Windows NT training for the staff, teaching them Windows 2000, new backup procedures, and FileMaker Pro. To avoid bugs, we won't be installing Windows XP until they've issued at least one service pack.

Users have requested turning off banner pages on the public printers. (They are already turned off for office printers.) Request denied. For some reason the option "-h" for 'lpr' that should suppress the header doesn't work! Shannon suggests that users use "lp -o nb" to suppress the banners, since "lp -o nobanner" doesn't work, either, sigh. Ando suggested that the banner page itself should contain the instructions for its suppression.

Sullivan requested two-sided printing in Illini Hall. Chappell will check

how much an upgrade for two-sided printing to one of the printers in Illini Hall would cost.

Chappell has been experimenting with printing to the xerox machine, and says it doesn't accept postscript; that surprised Grayson.

Emergency planning and root access: Chappell, Galway, and Asari have learned some basic emergency procedures for maintenance of the Solaris workstations; they all have root access now. The consultants will need the root passwords for the clients. Michael Chan also has a root account. The servers are not yet set up to listen to the UPS devices for warnings about the power going off.

Shannon suggested disabling ssh access from the students.uiuc.edu and staff.uiuc.edu; it seems like a good idea, provided the users are trained: perhaps only password access should be denied. This needs further discussion.

We'll try to get MindTerm working soon so everyone has access from a distance; a license will be bought. Shannon will ask CCSO or the new CIO to install ssh on the public Windows machines. Francis suggested not telling administrators their passwords, and Grayson suggested not telling users their passwords.

An ftp server is now running on <ftp.math.uiuc.edu>! Virtual users for the preprint archives will be created soon. Users can request virtual ftp user accounts of their own.

Galway has started writing a policy statement about acceptable use of the computers, governing how and whether and where to run computationally intensive jobs.

The consultants have checked the 57 office Suns for hardware problems last week. The problems will be called in to Sun.

Agenda topics not discussed: Altgeld 130 as classroom, UIUCnet plan.

Meeting adjourned