



Minnesota  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

## Infrastructure Steering Committee

### MEETING NOTES

March 12, 2008

12:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Conference Room 3362 Wells Fargo Place, St. Paul

**NEXT MEETING:** **Date:** April 9th, 2008

**Time:** 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**Location:** Room 3362, Wells Fargo Place, St. Paul

**ATTENDEES:** Mike Janke, Ross Berndt, Dan Harber, Ken Ries, Penny Dickhudt

**ITV / WebEx:** Tim Furr, Steve Richards, Scott Streed

**Approval of Meeting Notes from February 13, 2008 Meeting** – To be reviewed.

**Announcements:** Jim Dierich is going to rewrite our committee charter. Our membership list will be updated and posted to the website.

**1. Wide Area Network:** Mike Janke: The firewall project is moving again. We have a new contractor working on this. We are starting to deploy again. We are going back and re-deploying some sites that we put firewalls on last summer because there was a router-firewall switch. Last summer we put the firewalls out for performance and now we are going back and replacing switches. We are now rolling out the rest of the firewalls. We have one person working on configuring nearly full-time and one person on the road nearly full-time. This is moving along well.

**The Network Redundancy Project:** This is moving along slowly. The O.E.T. does not know how to charge us for redundancy or how to charge us for the MPLS network that we have been on for a year. For the last month we have been working with the O.E.T. to figure out a new way for them to charge us with the goal of maintaining the current ratio of what we receive for what we pay. They want a simpler cost model which is difficult because their cost varies by a factor of 10 from one corner of the state to another. We developed a model and presented it to the directors of the six regions. They will be meeting again to discuss it. The O.E.T. has to charge all customers the same so whatever model works for us has to work for all state agencies. They are doing a tiered rate structure so depending on where you are in the state you will pay a different price for the same amount of bandwidth. We have the funding to handle an increase in cost. The University of Minnesota is asking us for bandwidth predictions for next Fall. We told them 20%. Our routers are ok for this. On Friday morning we will be putting in a demo beta PacketShaper that is capable of 2 Gigs. If it works, we will buy two at the cost of \$101,000 for the pair minus trading in what we have.

Central Minnesota approved one new Hi Def. classroom for each of its institutions. How will this increased bandwidth affect other campuses? Comet is doing testing on this.

**2. Data Center Update:** Ross Berndt:

We have moved the servers to a new rack so now we are officially on our side of the data center at WBOB. The infrastructure there is fairly stable. We are still looking at putting the low voltage above ground. This could be a project for next year.

-The virtual tape library was moved from WBOB to COB. It is working and we are feeling good about it.

-The hardware installation at the COB is in phase 2 according to our project plan. The next phase is failover and making sure the data works. Our servers are installed. In the event of a disaster, we have an agreement with HP to ship out equipment within 72 hours. We have power under the floor and spare racks with power and networks through them.

The D2L failover environment has been declared valid and can be used. The data can be replicated within minutes. We think we have the infrastructure in place to bring it live including a DNS and load balancers.

In the case of ISRS, RDB data is mirrored, but Oracle data is not. The initial target for ISRS is getting the data off-site. Once this is complete, we would like to be able to boot the environment and run the app.

### **3. Uniface 8 Client Upgrade – Ross Berndt:**

At the beginning of March, there was an attempt to cut over the Northern region to the Uniface 8 client, but the license server was not acting properly and started consuming an extraordinary amount of CPU cycles. This went on for two and a half days with the inclination that a patch would be readily available. When they realized that the patch was not available they failed back to Uniface 7. The Northern Region is staying on 7 until we are more confident in Uniface 8. Uniface 8 is capable of encryption. We think that after the ISRS conversion, we will push hard to get the encryption features enabled on the data from the client to the server.

### **4. D2L Upgrade – Penny Dickhudt:**

Usage Statistics: The dates of highest usage are typically at the beginning of a semester. When we started looking at the upgrade, we decided we needed to look at the pros and cons of performing the upgrade.

Risks: Significant user interface change – adds a level of complexity. We would need to have a very strong training plan in place for this upgrade. We would also need to carefully plan out our testing schedule.

-D2L's method of updating our app server is to pay an employee to copy files on to the app server, unzip them and move them around in the file system. This is a bad plan. They usually end up missing something. We resolved to not let them touch our system until they have an effective plan on how to upgrade servers.

-Lack of end user commitment to participate in user acceptance testing.

-Legal issues between BlackBoard and D2L.

Opportunities: .Net technology would help us improve performance.

-New features

Time Table: Our absolute Go/No Go decision date is 5/5.

-Karen Wenz is maintaining an up-to-date D2L status web site where all upgrade information will be available.

### **5. IAM Identity & Access Management – Ross Berndt/Mike Janke:**

We have a valid development environment and test lab. We know how to deploy and load balance the software. We have a rough idea of how to connect it to ISRS. We may contract with the company Aegis for guidance through the process of engineering the various integration strategies with various applications and campus directories. We are making progress on this project. We also may be able to hire people with real IDM experience.

**6. Projects:** Electronic Time Reporting: This may be prototyped by the first week of April at Century College. They have done performance testing and the developers have done a load curve and created a model of how they think the database and app server will work. They will be deploying the pilot in the next few weeks. Over the summer, they will add more schools. The Core Network Upgrade: On Sunday night, we had a hardware problem. Cisco came in and recreated a combined OET/MnSCU core but they could not recreate the problem. When it failed on Sunday, we turned the router off. The OET pulled a router out of their test lab and put it on line. This is what we are currently running on. Cisco agreed that it was a hardware problem all along. A lot of projects were delayed because of this.

**7. Other Items:**

-Test Environment for campuses: We do have a test environment that could go out to campuses but it would have a minor impact on infrastructure. When we go forward with something like IDM, we intend to maintain test environments. This is a good thing to follow up on.

- Student email issue: There is a group of 6 campuses that are looking at outsourcing all student email. They have worked with the Attorney General's office to get both Microsoft and Google's agreements approved. An RFP will go out soon and the campuses will select either Microsoft or Google. Metnet and the University of Minnesota have also been following this.

-Central Data Back-up Pilot: The direction for this item was to submit it through the EIC process. We submitted a business case but we don't know the status of it. We should be seeing the outcomes of the last EIC meeting prior to the next CIO meeting.

**8. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.  
Meeting notes submitted by Smitha Pennepalli, [smitha.pennepalli@csu.mnscu.edu](mailto:smitha.pennepalli@csu.mnscu.edu).