

Reports from Regional Networks for UKMMG Meeting of 26 June 2007

LMN: Pete White

Progress on LMN3 network Procurement

The LMN3 core is expected to be delivered by the end of June 2007 running 2 by 10Gbps DWDM around the 3 PoPs at King's, Imperial and ULCC.

Most of the HEI's will be receiving 1Gbps primary links plus 1Gbps resilient links. The primary links have an installation target date of end of July 2007.

Whilst LMN3 is under construction many of our FECs have order 100Mbps upgrades.

On the routing side LMN's 3 Cisco GSRs have been upgraded to XRs with new switch fabric, 10Gbps core interfaces and new six 10 port 1Gbps interfaces.

Business Development Activities

1. Timetable of events

Wednesday 13th June 2007

IT Directors' Forum

Wednesday 13th June 2007

Networking BBQ

Tuesday 17th July 2007

Using your JANET connection to protect your data. Keynote speaker Tim

Marshall CEO JANET(UK)

To be announced

Issues surrounding VoIP, London Networkshop and more free events for LMN members

2. Service Adoption

2.1 Back up with InTechnology

24 institutions now use this service. The turnover for these services exceeds £1.5 million/annum.

2.2 Message labs

16 institutions use this service. The turnover for these service approached £1 million/annum.

3. New Services

3.1 Transit of JANET to halls of residence managed service

LMN is in discussions and close to a deal with Catalyst ltd to deliver managed student internet services to halls of residence. This is on trial at the Harrow Halls of residence for University of Westminster.

3.2 Inuk IP TV

LMN is talking to Inuk who already deliver IP TV over JANET. Again we are close to a deal but at this stage this remains commercial in confidence.

YHMAN: Ed Carter

All YHMAN PoP sites now have Out-of-Band monitoring, UPS and remote power management.

We have just received OGC Framework responses in to allow each PoP site to be split into dual physically separate locations (this will allow for further resilience in Univ campus connection and future connection for others). We have received more than one supplier quotation for further cable only leasing in the Region.

YHMAN has received a formal Request-for-Information from the Valuation Office Agency with a return deadline of 16/7/2007.

We have issued an OGC Framework to provide extra resilience to our South Yorkshire college sub-network to be funded locally.

We are upgrading a 34M link to a 2G barrier for the British Library (Boston Spa) and moving the connection from YHMAN directly to the SJ5 BAN.

A second SJ5 BAN installation at the second YHMAN-SJ5 RNEP is being progressed with JANET (UK).

YHMAN is progressing Sponsored Connection for the Northern Hospital NHS Hospital Trust in Sheffield.

YHMAN is upgrading connections for the DfES funded National Science Learning Centre (for Schools), migrating NSLC from YHMAN Sponsored status to Nominated Organisation status. NSLC is based at York University with their national server infrastructure based at Sheffield Hallam Uni.

YHMAN is progressing resilient connection for our "mini-PoP" in Scarborough using a radio link to YHMAN (Hull).

North Yorkshire County Council are implementing a "lambda" ring <www.nynet.co.uk>, a BT managed service, around the county over the Summer period and is progressing an N3 gateway with the NHS (like London Connect). YHMAN has been part of the development group to establish NYnet and participates in regional forums. NYnet is supported by NYCC, RDA & EU funding for the public sector but allowed to wholesale the core to commercial suppliers.

NIRAN: Chris Kelly**SuperJANET5**

There is nothing to report on the SJ5 dual entry point link, bar the fact that it has been performing successfully since the last meeting.

FE Colleges Merger

Northern Ireland's existing 16 Further Education Colleges will merge into 6 larger Area Based Colleges [ABCs]. Where three erstwhile separate colleges are becoming one, we intend to use the existing NIRAN circuits to connect them virtually as one, using VPNs. Many of the merging colleges intend to use VoIP over these NIRAN links for intra-college telephony, so it will be an interesting "experiment". NIRAN is upgrading the FE links such that the six primary campus links will be at 100Mb and the secondary campus links will be at a minimum of 34Mb. The Department for Employment and Learning in NI is funding the merger upgrades.

FE Router Support

The NIRAN procurement included circuits and routing equipment from the outset. This meant that every HE and FE institution received a uniform router model to be housed on its premises to be used as part of the NIRAN infrastructure. Only NIRAN has access to these routers. The purpose was twofold: to save the sites having to procure a suitable connecting box and to facilitate the future management of the physical network. This has proved to be a useful policy. Thus, in the context of the request to RNs to assume management of the FE edge routers, NIRAN has been doing this from its inception.

New Business

NIRAN is exploring the possibility of connecting other NI public sector bodies such as the Local Councils and the Electoral Commission.

Rates Enquiry

Tentative enquiries have been made to the NI Rates Office concerning liability of network fibre for rates assessment. The rating division staff did not appear to be aware of any Northern Ireland provision that telecommunications networks are liable to assessment for rates. It was considered expedient not to pursue the enquiry further lest it encouraged the NI Rates Dept to introduce such a policy.

Multicast

After receiving requests from several member institutions, NIRAN is exploring the possibility of deploying Multicast over the NIRAN infrastructure.

ClydeNET: Linda McCormick

Merger

Plans for merger of Bell College & University of Paisley to form University of the West of Scotland on 1 August 2007 proceeding. ClydeNET will provide the new university with a 2nd connection to the Bell Campus using SJ5 funds. This will complement the dark fibre link to Paisley Campus. With 1 fewer HEI, we are planning to provide a second link for those HEIs that want it at a 2nd site on their institutional LAN.

Procurements

Nearing completion of 2 major Open European Procurements to replace contracts that expire on 30 September 2007. Expect to complete contract negotiation and place orders in July.

- a) Managed telecomms services - all FE (apart from Bell Campus link) with earmarked funding from SFC
- b) Edge router kit - both HE & FE. We are looking at a framework deal and associated maintenance.

JPA

ClydeNET Management Committee discussed progress to date at its last meeting. Great concern expressed at lack of any detailed paperwork and therefore timescale for appropriate consultation and arriving at decision. Also the lack of a "Plan B" is distinctly worrying.

Feedback

We conducted a survey of ClydeNET technical contacts during early May to elicit feedback about aspects of ClydeNET service and operation and also to identify any staff development needs in relation to ClydeNET. The service quality and response to faults was generally deemed excellent. We are now looking to develop a training programme that is in the strategic interests of ClydeNET and is consistent with institutional requirements.

NWMAN: David Stedham

At last all five colleges to be migrated to the Lifelong Learning Network have been moved to their new BT links. We are now decommissioning the remaining sections of fibre and radio links and are recovering redundant routers and other equipment. We are waiting for delivery of new supervisor cards for ex-backbone 7206s to replace the failing 7500 backbone routers.

We are eagerly waiting for news on the all-Wales public sector network (PSBA) procurement. According to the latest project bulletin, an announcement should be made around the end of June.

AbMAN: John Linn

This has been a relatively quiet period allowing us time to revise the Risk Register and Disaster Recovery Plan in the light of the SJ5 upgrade.

We are still waiting on Cisco to fix a bug in the CS7600 IOS so as to permit IPv6 multicast; however, even with that fixed, I am not sure that all the necessary functionality will be there. We are taking stock of the divergence of the IOS code from the CS6500 series and the lack of modular IOS on the CS7600; it is believed that it is only the POS board that prevents us from re-classifying the hardware as a 6500 if that is a better way forward.

On IPv6, we are considering a training workshop covering rolling IPv6 out to the institutes and on to the campus.

Net North West: Tim Robinson

Rating Fibre (Valuation Office Agency)

Nothing further to report. I'm happy to discuss my experiences of dealing with the VOA with other RNOs.

RPAN Funded Connections

FE sites are continuing to request 100 Mbps links in order to be able to accommodate higher JANET bandwidths. These are starting to be delivered with several on order. Connections to more difficult to reach locations seem to be the latest LSC development.

A project to replace the existing SURFnet, not the Netherlands NREN but the Staffordshire University Regional Federation network, based on ATM/SDH delivered over microwave with a fibre/Ethernet based network has been approved. Orders have been placed with a target date of service by the start of the 2007/8 academic year.

SuperJANET5

All eleven new Cisco 6500s being deployed across the region are operational and members are introducing BGP between their networks and NNW to take advantage of the dual links all the HEIs have to NNW. It is planned to complete the transfer by 31-Jul-2007.

Plans to deploy dark fibre to allow an e-Science network to operate between Manchester, Liverpool, Daresbury and Jodrell Bank are progressing. All the necessary dark fibre has been obtained. Equipment to provide a single 10 Gbps link between Manchester and Daresbury is on site. It is hoped to have this in service in time to match up with a 10 Gbps link over JANET and GEANT to Frankfurt due on 06-Jul-2007. The procurement document for the optical equipment to drive the network at (multiple) 10 Gbps will be issued shortly.

National Optical Developments

I'm not aware of any changes to the planned rollout of the JANET Lightpath Service.

