Network Projects Review—Ed Anderson, Kirk Fitzgerald, Steve Fry (SCS)

Router Upgrade
This project is currently on schedule. The Las Vegas routers will be installed on Sunday, May 17, and the Reno routers will be installed two weeks later on May 31. This is big effort for us, and we will make it as transparent as possible.

SSL VPN Solution
The SSL VPN project covers both the iNtegrate installation and legacy applications. It is on schedule and should be available for testing at the end of this month. SCS employees will test it first; and then beginning around May 1, the rest of the campuses and their consultants will be able to start using it. It is thin-client based and will be automatically downloaded to a person’s workstation, giving access to both North and South servers.

IP Address Migration
Ed Anderson will be scheduling and facilitating a meeting with the affected institutions to begin to formulate a migration plan and preliminary schedule for the work that needs to be done.

DRI shared some of the details of the migration plan they are developing. They plan to pick up a set of firewalls for one of their locales and put those on line in parallel to their existing units and then start migrating to the new units over time. Once the migration is complete, they will take the old VPNs, wipe them and then put them in the new locale. The next step for them is to figure out the timeline and the budget.

Polycom MCU Install
SCS has purchased a new video MCU unit, which has been racked and preliminarily tested. There was a licensing issue with the TC Reliance scheduling software that has now been straightened out. The unit is in production testing now, and should be on line by the first of May.

Eureka Fiber Breakout
This project is an opportunity to tie the Eureka County School District into the I80 fiber path. Over the past couple of years, Eureka has created fiber connections to the high school, the elementary school, the cooperative extension office, and the medical clinic. They would like to tie these connections into the I80 fiber path to Reno and the internet. To accomplish this, SCS is adding about 1,000 feet of trenching, and installing and connecting the fiber at a cost of about $30K. Once the transition is made, we will be able to turn down the long-haul T1s between Eureka and Elko. The annual cost of the T1s was about $30K, so we can recoup our costs in about a year. The bids are in, and we are moving ahead with the project.
**Reno/Carson Fiber**

Although the Northwest quadrant of the loop is still under construction, fiber is finally lit from Reno to Carson to the WNC campus. Testing and monitoring are taking place now, and we will start carrying traffic soon.

**Economic Stimulus Monies**

Ed Anderson has been designated as a state-wide point person to talk about broadband deployment and the NevadaNet network. He has been attending meetings surrounding Economic Stimulus Monies. There was a public input meeting held in Las Vegas on March 17 to provide feedback to the NTIA and the RUS on what the application rules should be and how the proposals should be evaluated – the criteria used, the definition of broadband, what constitutes an unserved or underserved community, etc. Answers to these questions are needed before any kind of policy or rule making associated with applying for these funds can be established.

There is about 7.2 billion dollars available for various broadband initiatives, with the money broken down into several separate pots. The NTIA has about 4.7 billion dollars available, and the RUS has about 2.5 billion dollars available. Within those groups, there are different pots of money in the hundreds of millions for various health and other specialized programs for community data centers, etc. There is a lot of effort going on throughout the state to try to figure out how to access these funds.

The PUC has been designated the state agency to help facilitate the process, although they don’t regulate broadband. They are trying to bring all the parties together to make sure we have some sort of coordinated plan on how we apply for these funds. There are numerous workshops and webinars going on about what the rules are or might be. We plan to apply for some of these funds as soon as the rules for application are better understood.

There will be three waves of applications. The first one is supposed to be sometime this month, *(note: delayed until June)* followed by two more waves, two to three months apart. We are considering which of many proposals to put forward in applying for funds. One of the proposals we have been talking about, particularly for rural broadband facilitation, has to do with fiber breakout points. There are small communities that could profit significantly by gaining access to the fiber paths we have along U.S. 50 and 180. Another proposal we are considering is a fiber path between Reno and Las Vegas along U.S. 95 with breakout points to communities along the path. This would be about a $30 million dollar project. Unfortunately, it might not be possible to spend the money within two years, which is one of the requirements.

So far there hasn’t been any definitive rulemaking or policy/procedure development from the PUC. There is another meeting/workshop on April 16 coordinated by Harry Reid about how we can benefit from these various initiatives. The following day, UNLV is having a meeting to discuss what their plans are in regard to these monies. Ed would like to encourage the various institutions to consider what we might do as a group to coordinate our efforts as we consider how to apply for this funding.
**Systems Support Services / iNtegrate Infrastructure Update** – Chris Gaub (SCS)

Our work on the iNtegrate infrastructure continues. We continue to roll out systems in support of the application implementation process. Our first go-live date will be for admissions at UNLV and TMCC in the fall.

We are continuing to do work on the systems side of the existing administrative applications. We have already done the CICS upgrade on Mustang. We are working to do the same on Bighorn, and we are also doing testing to upgrade the operating system on both mainframes.

Another thing we are working on is the standing-down of student email. The target date for that is the spring of 2010. We have reached an agreement in principle with Google for a system-wide license for Google apps for education, and we are starting on the project process of implementing a contract, getting it signed, and assessing the impacts.

**Information and Application Services / iNtegrate Application Update**

No representative from Information and Application Services was available to give an update.

**Client Services/System wide Software** – Susan Bunyan (SCS)

We have completed the Microsoft campus agreement. CDWG has been added as a vendor for the Microsoft Select agreement. We have been working with Legal to get new agreements with Blackboard and SPSS.

We were asked by a couple of campuses to look into WIMBA system license and VMware. We contacted the vendors to see what kind of system-wide proposal we could get by combining the campuses that use those products, along with other potentially interested campuses.

With the iNtegrate project, we have been asked to take a look again at College Net’s classroom scheduling package called R 25. We are looking at it mostly in conjunction with the shared instance to see if those campuses could use the same scheduling package. Right now they use a variety of College Net, Ad Astra, and Homegrown.

**System Security** – Paul Mudgett (SCS)

Neither Paul Mudgett, nor Jana Dunn was available for today’s meeting. Jana is working to schedule a new presentation for Microsoft and will send out word as soon as it is finalized.
Kirk Fitzgerald reported that System Security purchased two new IDS sensors for iNtegrate, and those will be installed in a month or two.

**Facilities/Data Center Planning** – Richard Ayala (SCS)

Last week, we had equipment installed and connections made for UNSOM to collocate some equipment in our Reno data center. We worked out an SLA with them. We are on track to have all the work completed by April 12. The student health medical manager server was installed this past weekend, and next weekend the new pharmacy server will be installed. Some additional equipment will be installed within a couple of weeks.

UNLV is changing out some equipment to go to a more reliable system. They are installing some new IBM equipment to handle their WebCT duties. They have had a lot of problems with that in the past, and this upgrade should make a big difference. The connections are being made, and the cutover should take place sometime late summer.

We just finished a cooling system flush in the Las Vegas facility. We have had some problems controlling the environment in the building. The cooling system for the computer room is on the same system. We did a system flush with a chemical to remove a lot of the build-up that was observed in the piping when we have done other work. We have had cross-sections of this piping showing that flow in some areas of the system in the building had been reduced by 40%. Since the flush, increased efficiency is being seen already. Only two out of the three cooling units have to be used now, instead of all three.

We will be installing a new back-up generator and UPS in Las Vegas that should be finished by the end of June. There probably will be some outage time required to allow new connections to the generator and for testing. All concerned will be notified when we know the times.

**Operational Issues/Events** - All

**Lotus Notes Time Stamping Error** – Susan Bunyan (SCS)
A time stamping issue with Lotus Notes was causing messages to be marked as 4/11 or 4/12. The issue has now been resolved.

**Other Issues**

**Live Video Streaming as Centralized Service** – Ed Anderson (SCS)
Over the last few months, we have discussed video streaming and the security and confidentiality associated with it. We were wondering if centralized streaming as a video service would be of interest to anyone. It would be just like scheduling any other kind of video. The ability to have a video streamed would be just another selection.
We could build this so it would be more secure and controlled by TC Reliance. Doing this would alleviate the need for institutions to purchase their own video streaming, eliminate the duplication of equipment across institutions, and would offer the service to institutions that can’t afford their own equipment. We have a meeting today with VBrick and will be getting some preliminary cost figures from them. We will also be looking at other vendors.

There appeared to be interest in this potential centralized approach to streaming service so SCS will continue to gather technical and financial information.