Network Projects Review – Ed Anderson (SCS)

Core Router Project – Outage Scheduling
To accommodate the Core Router Project, SCS originally scheduled outages for May 17 and May 31. However, in doing the bench testing associated with this project, it was discovered that in some ways easier and preferable to accomplish this in one outage instead of two, doing both North and South at the same time on May 17. This will eliminate some problems associated with making the new equipment work with the legacy configurations and will alleviate TMCC’s concern about the May 31st date.

SCS is also proposing to move the start time from 4:00am to 2:00am to give a little more breathing room in case problems and to restore services as soon on Sunday the 17th as possible. It is anticipated that all of the major connectivity will be back up within two to three hours, and that all remaining work will be completed by 10:00am.

A notice was sent out on Thursday of last week to raise awareness of the outage and to make sure that everyone can accommodate the outage. We asked for any input to be given to us by the end of today, and we have not heard any objections up to this point.

Reno-Carson Fiber Project
Radial traffic is currently being carried on the fiber to WNC. However, by the end of the month, the final portion to close the ring will be completed. We will keep the existing DS3 up for a period of time to make sure the ring gets closed and that the new connection is stable. Once that happens, we will discontinue the DS3 service to WNC.

SSL VPN
Both the primary and redundant systems are installed and are being tested. There are just some administrative details that need to be worked out before full implementation – quantification of domain names, and the authentication piece on the iNtegrate side. We also have some certificates to purchase once these other details are taken care of.

Lyon County School District
There is some interest from the Lyon County School District to come onto the NevadaNet. They are one of the few school districts that we don’t currently serve. We are in the process of providing estimates and finding out what will be necessary to make the connection.

Eureka Fiber Access Point
The Eureka County School District has run fiber in Eureka to connect the cooperative extension office, the schools, the medical clinic, etc, and has come to us for design support to interconnect to NevadaNet via the U.S. 50 fiber path.
SCS is providing some of our own funds facilitate the fiber tie. It requires about a 1,000 feet of trenching and some other interface equipment. The design has been completed, and the equipment has been ordered. The trenching and splicing are scheduled to be done around the end of this month, and the full conversion to the fiber from the existing leased circuits is scheduled for June 11. We should be able to recoup our costs in about a year’s time.

**UNR Planet Lab Collocation**
SCS had a request from the UNR College of Engineering entity to collocate two servers in our data center for their Planet Lab Project. The data gathering project is a consortium of universities around the world that do certain types of experiments with network connectivity and similar. They are collocated inside our data center, but they reside outside the logical network in the DMZ. They installed their equipment last week.

**UNSON Northern Co-location**
SCS is continuing with the northern collocation for UNSOM as well. UNSOM is setting up a time for their vendor to come out and do the server assembly and migration piece.

**Interface Change for Supercomputing Center**
SCS received a request for information regarding what it would take for the Supercomputing Center in Las Vegas to change out their interface from an ATM to a GIG-E. UNLV will provide a different fiber path to the new engineering facility.

**Economic Stimulus Opportunity Status**
Ed Anderson is on a committee headed by the Public Utilities Commission to gather information regarding potential broadband projects that would qualify under the Stimulus Act. He recently attended a meeting in Las Vegas put on by Harry Reid for describing what opportunities and funding might be available. There are to be three waves of funding. The first wave is going to come out in June, with the rest following every two or three months after that.

For the first wave of funding, we have proposed creating fiber distribution points for communities along the I80 and US50 fiber paths that don’t have them already. This would allow broadband access in those communities without having to use long haul leased circuits. We also estimated some costs to upgrade existing facilities where some of the optical cards and equipment are old and lack adequate capacity and redundancy. The estimate for this proposal is about 5.3 million dollars.

SCS is also working with the UNR School of Medicine to take advantage of some additional funding available for electronic health records and health IT initiatives. Together the SCS and UNSOM/NRHP proposals could provide an end to end solution for the broadband needs to support the electronic health record initiative. The SCS proposal would provide the “middle mile” connectivity and the UNSOM/NRHP proposal could facilitate the “last mile” connectivity along the fiber corridors.
For the second and third waves of funding, SCS and UNSOM/NRHP are exploring ways to support health clinics that aren’t on those fiber paths. One possibility is to provide a wireless solution to remote communities by upgrading DOIT’s microwave backbone to increase bandwidth for them to support electronic health record data traffic etc.

In all cases, as we move forward with these proposals, we need to make sure that we can support them with the resources we have available.

**Systems Support Services / iNtegrate Hardware Update** – Chris Gaub (SCS)

Chris Gaub had a conflicting iNtegrate meeting this morning.

Ed Anderson told the group that there have not been any major hardware issues with the implementation of iNtegrate so far, and the hardware platforms appear to be performing as intended.

**Information and Application Services**

No representative from Information and Application Services was available to give an update. However, Dodie Bryant reported to Ed Anderson that iNtegrate is taking up all of IAS’s resources at the moment.

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

We’re starting to get the bills out for July – SPSS, ESRI, and Symantec. The third party reseller for Symantec has gone out of business. So we have to go out and getting pricing again for Symantec. Susan has heard some interest in switching from Symantec to McAfee, and now might be the time for doing that since we no longer have a 3 year commitment with this reseller. Susan will email out more information about this later this week.

The July 1 bills that are going out now do not have to be paid immediately. Some campuses prefer to pay them early.

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

Paul Mudgett has been tracking Senate Bill 227. It would add some additional wording into current state law to require compliance with PCI if you are accepting credit card information for goods and services. That takes PCI and shifts it from being just an industry standard to becoming state law. Instead of the encryption of data or personally identifiable information having to be encrypted only during transit, it would now also
apply to storage devices as well. So if you have laptops, thumb-drives, things that move outside of your facilities, that information would have to be encrypted while on those types of devices. There is a safe harbor clause that says that if you follow these rules, then you are not liable for a breach. The bill has passed the senate and is currently sitting in committee with the assembly.

Jana Dunn is working to schedule a new presentation for the Security Interest Group and will send out word when it is finalized.

Facilities/Data Center Planning – Richard Ayala (SCS)

We are working on a project in the Las Vegas data center to install a new backup generator and UPS. It will require an outage of approximately 12 hours that will likely take place in the last two weeks of June. We need sufficient time to hook up all the electrical from the new system to the existing system and test it. We will begin notifications and soliciting input on the outage as soon as possible.

Operational Issues/Events – All

Lotus Notes Time Stamp – Susan Bunyan (SCS)
During routine maintenance, the date was inadvertently changed on the server that Lotus Notes sits on. This caused messages to be stamped with a future date, which caused a number of problems. The problem was resolved for most users within two days, and within four days for the rest.

UNR Road Grading Project Impact – Jeff Wolff (UNR)
UNR is considering widening one of the roads by Lombardi. If it takes place, it would impact SCS’s fiber, and would require a change of elevation of some conduits and a vault. UNR could provide SCS a redundant path completely outside the construction footprint through some UNR assets. More communication and coordination will need to take place before the work begins.

Other Issues

Results of Strategic Planning Questions – Ed Anderson (SCS)
In an effort to better meet the needs of the institutions, and to align SCS’s planning and operations with the strategic directions of the institutions, the advisory group recently conducted a survey soliciting input from the institutions.

From a connectivity or network standpoint, the results showed a desire for:
- More collaborative effort in bandwidth planning
- Greater need for 10 Gbps connections
- Greater emphasis on video technologies – high definition, desktop video,
We will be investigating all of your suggestions and will be contacting and talking to all of you about them, either through meetings or individually. Ed Anderson will be giving a presentation sometime in June to the advisory group to talk about the network, explain what some of the bandwidth issues are, and solicit information about the direction we should be going.