Connectivity Committee Meeting
MINUTES

Western Nevada College Presentation – Songhai Liu (WNC)

Songhai Liu gave a presentation on Western Nevada College, which gave us an overview of WNC’s current network infrastructure and their long term goals and challenges. Songhai’s slide presentation is included with these minutes.

Next month, the College of Southern Nevada will be making a presentation to the group.

Question & Answer

What model of Bluesocket boxes are you using?
I think it is BSE1200 for the Carson campus and BSE600 for the Fallon campus.

Has Bluesocket contacted you regarding your 600 or possibly your 1200? DRI has 600’s and a 1000 and they claim they are no longer going to warrantee them at all. We have to upgrade them.

No, we just purchased warrantees on them. I had to replace a BSE600, and I just called them and they sent me a new one.

Network Projects Review – Ed Anderson (SCS)

10 Gbps Southern Internet
SCS is in the process of upgrading the Southern Commodity Internet to 10 Gbps. It is basically a contract issue at this point. The contract is out of Legal and in the signature chain. We are confident we will have 10 Gbps connectivity in the South by the end of the year.

10 Gbps Northern Commodity/Research Internet
We have EPSCoR grant funding to upgrade the Northern Commodity and/or Research Internet connections to 10 Gbps. A total of $101,000 was awarded to make the upgrade. Current estimates show that it is going to take about $150,000 to do both of them. We are going to have to work to find the extra money and maybe move things around. To save money, we are looking at the possibility of providing commodity internet locally verses going to CENIC for it. We are doing some analysis of the situation and working to upgrade both connections in one form or another. We are not sure about the timing, but the need is getting more urgent. The loading on the Northern Commodity Internet Connection continues to increase. We are normally running about 700 – 800 Mbps.
during the day, and at times it has been spiking to almost 900.

**North/South Capacity**
We have begun the effort to do another RFP or RFQ for North/South capacity upgrades. During the normal daily hours, we are running 200 – 300 Mbps, but the big load on the North/South is at night when we are doing data transfers and running upwards of 800 Mbps. We are going to need increased capacity there soon. As more and more of iNtegrate comes live, there is going to be more and more associated data. It is either going to take more time or more bandwidth to get this done.

**EPSCoR C2 Grant Submittal**
We are in the process of applying for another EPSCoR grant that would target upgrading the Southern and possibly the Northern metro loops, so that we would have 10 Gbps capability in the rings to connect to the 10 Gbps capability we are procuring for the Internet access. That grant was completed and submitted to the EPSCoR office. It will probably be a month or two before they get through the evaluation process. If successful, it would be about $750,000 over two or three years.

**Economic Stimulus Grant Status**
The State has created a Nevada Broadband Task Force (and to which I have been appointed) to review all of the applications RUS/NTIA proposals that were submitted and had any relation to Nevada. There were about 65 total projects; only half a dozen or so were strictly for Nevada. In the rest of them, Nevada was included in multi-state broadband proposals submitted by large entities.

The States were asked to go through these applications and identify which ones were priorities for their state and give that list back to the NTIA to make the final decision on which ones get funded. There were three categories: Infrastructure (where something gets built), Sustainable Adoption (expansion of existing services into areas not presently served), and public libraries or Public Computing Centers. The vast majority of the 65 applications were in the Sustainable Adoption category. There were maybe a dozen or so in the infrastructure category. The NSHE request fell in this category, and was ultimately ranked somewhere in the middle of the Infrastructure recommendations. However, we were probably the only one that was a Nevada-only proposal. I lobbied hard to have language included that went back to the Federal Government that said that because we don’t know how much Nevada would actually get out of any of these multi-state proposals, that we would recommend that Nevada-only projects be given higher priority in their deliberations.

Concerning the actual award, it looks like they will be making decisions in the December time frame. The total amount was about 5.8 million dollars, which would do a lot to bolster the fiber backbone on both the US50 and I80 corridors.

**IPv6 – Kirk Fitzgerald (SCS)**
SCS has received a request from UNLV to investigate our future strategy as it relates to implementation of IPv6. UNLV and SCS would like to get started with testing and
development. We have requested new IPv6 space for the whole state from ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers). With the new ARIN management, each campus will be responsible for its own IP space as far as abuse, NOC, and other issues. We would like to talk with the campuses and find out if we can work together to get funding for equipment where we can build a separate IPv6 development network so that nobody has to run dual stacks on their routers, at least for now. We would like to get a bare minimum of equipment in place where we could start testing and development. We can use MPLS tunnels to connect IPv6 routers between Las Vegas and Reno

**Northern IP Address Changes for UNR** – Bill King (SCS)

SCS will finish up our work when the schools are on winter break and closed in the December time frame. DRI continues to work on their portion and is on track time-wise. At this point, there is only work from SCS, DRI, and System Admin left to go.

**Data Center and Facilities Planning** – Tom Fishel (SCS)

Rich Ayala is going to have a meeting with Jon Goetz and Tom Nieva to discuss the UNSOM collocations later this week.

The Reno Data Center cooling tower was completed by UNR, which seems to be a lot more efficient than the old one. There should be some cost savings with the new tower as well.

The water treatment remote monitoring system in Las Vegas was completed, so we can get a better performance indication on the chemicals and the cooling capacities in the Las Vegas Data Center. Also, BTU and flow meters have been installed in an effort to keep tabs on the cooling for the Las Vegas Data Center.

We are also working on installing monitoring for the generator that was just installed in Las Vegas.

**System Security Update** – Jana Dunn (SCS)

Jana Dunn gave the following update on the Security Interest Group:

Some of you may remember our Microsoft presentations from Barbara Chung, which were very good. She has now moved on to a different project at Microsoft, and I have a new Microsoft contact. I have asked for a Webinar on security features of Windows 7. I am waiting to see if they will be able to do that for us, and I will keep you posted.

**Client Services/Systemwide Software** – Susan Bunyan (SCS)

The Systemwide Software Group has decided to change our meeting dates. We are now going to meet about four times a year. We were meeting monthly, but in a lot of months, there aren’t any renewals and not a lot to talk about. We have also moved from having
vendor demonstrations at our meetings to having webinars instead.

We are gearing up to do the Microsoft campus agreement and Microsoft Select agreement. Currently, one runs three years, and one runs two years, and they are on different dates. We are going to put them together and go out to bid in the next month. So, we are looking for bids by January to renew by March 1.

We did talk to Lou Mention about PatchLink because DRI and SCS use it. There is currently no advantage to merging those contracts. But as other NSHE institutions look at those products, there might be an advantage to NSHE merging those. PatchLink is going to conduct a webinar for the Systemwide Software Committee for their products. I'll make sure to send out information about it to Connectivity as well as the Software Committee.

**Information and Application Services** – Dodie Bryant (SCS)

Over the last month, we have supported the Shared Instance and TMCC has begun its rolling go-live. Admissions and schedules and catalogs are live in production. We purchased a change management version control system that we will, over November and December, work with UNLV and UNR and the Shared Instance to install and implement. It specifically works with PeopleSoft.

On the legacy side of the house, in the ESS system, you can now go in and select whether you want your W2 mailed or online.

**Systems Support Services** – Chris Gaub (SCS)

Our work on the iNtegrate system continues. In addition, we are beginning work on the student email and UNIX services transition. We are working with every NSHE institution in a planning effort to get a feel for where they are in their transition, and gathering questions from them to be answered in an upcoming FAQ from SCS.

We are also beginning our back-end effort on dealing with the implications for SCS for SWAMI, email, etc, as this project moves forward.

**Project Management Office** – Karen Brown (SCS)

On the new SCS website the Project Management Office has a web page that is accessible from the “about us” tab on the first screen. I have a new report that I am maintaining that is a list of projects that SCS is working on. Even though there are hundreds of projects going on, my list is condensed to those that the Senior Management Team reviews every week. Typically, they are projects that are more than a few weeks of effort. That report is grouped by institution. If you think we are working on a
project for you, and it is not on that list, send me an email and I will track down where it is and why it isn’t on the list.

SCS has also started another initiative with implementing problem management. That is another phase of the ITIL implementations that we have been doing over several years now. We went live on change management in August or September, and now we are starting to tackle the problem management piece, with the goal of having something in a pilot mode by the first of the year.

Operational Issues/Events

**Outage in SCS Reno Data Center** – Ed Anderson
We had one minor operational issue having to do with a breaker trip in our data center. A circuit breaker tripped in one of the equipment racks. It appears to have been an overload situation, and the breaker may have been partially at fault as well. It resulted in an outage that we had to reschedule to fix. We apologize for the outage and it has been taken care of.

Other Issues

**Cisco Maintenance Contracts** – Ed Anderson (SCS)
In the last two years, SCS has been approached by Cisco to enter into a three year maintenance agreement verses an annual agreement. Cisco would freeze the rates from escalation for three years. At the end of the three years, prices escalate to the then current level instead of paying increases over the three years. SCS has also been getting some scrutiny from Legal about whether we are bidding this every year, whether we want to commit to funds beyond a certain amount, and what happens if the actual maintenance rate goes down, etc.

There appears to be the potential for some savings by utilizing the three year approach. SCS has been working through this, and it has been a real problem every year as it comes due. I was wondering how everybody else has been handling this, and whether Cisco approached any of you to switch to three year agreements.

[There were a number of quick responses with many saying that their CISCO inventory was not significant and that they paid year to year.]

UNLV said that they have also been pushed the last couple of years to go to a three year contract and are investigating it. They are in the high $300,000 range for maintenance every year. They may be reassigning who is paying for some of the maintenance, and are also considering dropping all the 3750 and 3560 desktop switches out of that maintenance because they have a lifetime warranty and have lifetime software upgrades for higher education. They haven’t run into issues with Legal yet, but recognize it is often a problem with multi-year contracts.
SCS – New Manager of Network Operations – Ed Anderson (SCS)
Bill King has assumed the responsibility of the Manager of Network Operations for SCS, and we want to congratulate him on his promotion. We are sure there will be many good things coming out of his office in the near future. Bill has been at SCS for a number of years, and many of you already know him. Join me in congratulating him if you get a chance.