

Internet2 Industry Strategy Council

Meeting Summary

October 14, 2005

10:00 am - 11:00 am ET

ISC Participants: Bill Powers, Dan Atkins, Gary Augustson, Steve Hall, Wes Kaplow, Stu Kippelman, Brian McFadden, Mike Nelson, Rick Rashid

ISC members unable to participate: Marv Adams, Bob Aiken, Judy Estrin

Special Guest: Ted Colbert

Internet2 Participants: Jill Arnold, Cheryl Munn-Fremon, John Kennedy, Barb Nanzig, Doug Van Houweling, Ellen Vaughan, Karen Doemer (scribe)

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome, Agenda Review and Roll Call
- 2) Update on the progress of the NLR Internet2 merger
- 3) Progress and Plans for articulating industry engagement strategies for the new organization:
 - Recap of the ISC role
 - Progress report on the value proposition subcommittee
 - Progress report on the security subcommittee
 - Discussion
- 4) Planning for next meeting --- December 12 at DTW
- 5) Critique and Close

MEETING NOTES

Welcome, Agenda Review and Roll Call

Marv is unable to attend and has asked Ted Colbert of Ford Motor Company to capture key points for him. Bill Powers will serve as chair. Bill set the stage for the December 12 meeting. The meeting today will include updates on the merger, the value proposition subcommittee and the security subcommittee.

Update on the progress of the NLR Internet2 merger

Doug Van Houweling updated the council on the status and progress of the merger and provided answers to council member questions. The boards of both organizations authorized the merger discussions. Discussions have been more difficult than anticipated. The appointed review teams are working to understand the issues and anticipate working toward a resolution.

Internet2 and NLR have two different organizational structures. Internet2 is a membership organization governed by a Board. NLR is more like a partnership: all contributing organizations sit on the Board. NLR has a few employees and activities are accomplished by contracting out to various universities. The key difference is governance. The partners on the Board of NLR have fiduciary responsibility to their organizations that provided funding. They need to be directly involved not just representatively involved.

Another key issue is focus. NLR is focused on optical infrastructure with high performance

research applications and pathways to applications. Internet2 has been focused on production. These are complimentary; however, NLR has different priorities than Internet2 for the Layer 3 network.

NLR does not have efforts that reach out broadly so they do not have a focus on the applications space. NLR has not been involved in the Middleware effort. The new organization, if not carefully structured, would be focused more on network infrastructure.

Finally, the issue of the role of the CEO and staff is key. At NLR the staff is small and programmatic leadership comes from the Board. Internet2 has more of a traditional corporate structure. The leadership of the two organizations like the way they do things now. These two structures are difficult to combine.

We have made progress on a number of issues. Most significantly, we agree that the future of the network demands that we operate the network at Layer 1 which requires regional coordination and involvement.

Q & A with Doug Van Houweling

Q: Are you still optimistic that the two organizations will converge in a satisfactory way?

A: I am optimistic because the community wants it.

Q: What is the time line beyond the November 21 meeting of the two committees?

Q: If the committees are not able to come to a consensus recommendation we will try to start the process in a new way by going back to our respective Boards and ask them how they want to continue.

Q: It seems that a lot of the issues are about control of assets and research agenda.

A: We have examined different scenarios in which, for a period of time, the two organizations would retain control of key aspects of their current activity. There is concern that this will not achieve the benefits of a merger. Internet2 is comfortable with the approach that the NLR Board plays a major decision role with regards to NLR assets and the relationship with large scale research community.

Q: Maybe if the decision-making process takes a long time it can be tabled for a year.

A: Both Internet2 and NLR are moving forward to provide networking services that are beginning to overlap. The further we go down the path of supporting parallel infrastructure the greater the chance that resources may be wasted.

Q: Is there a core group outside of this process who are very interested in the resolution?

A: (Gary Augustson) This core group has individuals on both Boards. The issues are complicated and there is concern that not as much progress is being made as hoped. We cannot afford to let this drag out, positions will only harden. There is a clear unanimity that these two organizations need to merge.

Q: Is there anybody out there who could work behind the scenes to encourage progress?

A: Larry Faulkner and Don Randle are on the 8 member team and they are talking with their colleagues and both are committed to the merger.

Doug encouraged the council members to contact Larry Faulkner (president@po.utexas.edu) or Traci Futhey (futhey@duke.edu), Chair of the NLR Board, directly to provide thoughts or concerns about the merger.

Progress and Plans for articulating industry engagement strategies for the new organization

- Recap of the ISC role

Minutes from the last meeting indicated the role of the ISC is in helping frame the value proposition for industry engagement. These progress reports are important indicators of work being done to develop the council's recommendations.

- Progress report on the value proposition subcommittee

Stu Kippelman updated the council on the work of the sub-committee. A draft document representing the work from the meetings of the sub-committee to date is nearly complete. Jeff Lemmer at Ford has provided helpful information. The value proposition report will address what Internet2 can do to better support corporations and to expand membership. Stu invited other council members to review the document. Mike Nelson, Wes Kaplow and Brian McFadden agreed to review and comment. The goal is to finalize efforts in November and to present at the December 12 face-to-face meeting.

- Progress report on the security subcommittee

Progress on Security was summarized in the email sent in advance of this meeting. Marv has asked Scott Roundy at Ford to take a lead in this with Internet2 support. Steve Olshansky from Internet2 and Bill Powers have been identified as participants. Steve is also coordinating a session on, "Rethinking the problem on security", in Chicago Oct 24-25. Scott from Ford plans to be there as well as individuals from IBM, Cisco, Juniper, Microsoft, Sun, and Northrop Grumman. Marv views this as a piece of the overall value proposition.

Planning for next meeting

The next meeting of the full council will be a full day meeting on December 12 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Council members will be contacted regarding their accommodation needs. This is a fly-in fly-out location. Potential agenda items include: merger update, value proposition, security, infrastructure for innovations and the National Innovation Initiative. A suggestion for an additional topic for a future meeting includes a brainstorming session on how Internet2 can shape the debate over the future of the Internet. Public Relations and influencing Washington policy should be on the agenda. Mike Nelson and Gary Bachula will work on a talk about where we are and where we ought to go.