

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE  
YET UNNAMED REGIONAL NETWORK**

Minnesota Supercomputer Center, Inc., August 12, 1987

Twenty four people, representing ten institutions, met from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, August 12, 1987, to discuss their mutual interests regarding the establishment of a regional data communications network to serve their needs, and the needs of other institutions.

Introductory remarks concerning the need for such a network, and the possibility of using the network to access other wide area networks (NSFnet, BITnet, ARPAnet, etc.) were made by Thomas Jacobson (MSC). He referred to transparencies showing the NSFnet backbone, and other regional networks such as MIDnet, and SURAnet, concluding with a transparency showing a possible configuration for the Yet Unnamed Regional Network, based in Minnesota.

Stuart Levy (MSC) and Scott Bertilson (MSC) presented information about some of the technical issues related to the implementation and operation of such a network, including mail forwarding, internet routing, and domain name servers. Ken Carlson (MSC) suggested that the Minnesota Supercomputer Center would be willing to initially provide physical space, uninterruptible power, and minimal network monitoring and support for this network.

After informal discussion about the pros and cons of establishing such a network, and what type of traffic it might carry, Mr. Mahlon Stacy (Mayo) was elected temporary chair of the meeting. Since the general consensus appeared to be in favor of the ideas discussed thus far, Mr. Stacy led discussions about a motion of intent, which motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

"We acknowledge the existence of a Yet Unnamed Regional Communications Network, based in Minnesota, and support further development of technical and administrative plans for this network, which would allow for its further growth."

Further discussions about organization led to the formation of two committees, a Technical Committee, temporarily chaired by Thomas Jacobson (MSC), and an Administrative Committee, temporarily chaired by Geoff Brunkhorst (Mayo). The following volunteers agreed to serve on these committees:

Technical

Thomas Jacobson, MSC (chair)  
Tom Doyle, Honeywell  
Alex Elder, St. Olaf  
Dan McCreary, ETA  
Scott Bertilson, MSC  
Stuart Leavy, MSC  
Dave Borman, Cray

Administrative

Geoff Brunkhorst, Mayo (chair)  
Peter Pyclik, UofM  
Roger Gulbranson, UofM  
Ken Carlson, MSC  
Thomas Jacobson, MSC  
Carl Henry, Carleton

The Administrative Committee was charged with preparing the by-laws of the organizational structure. The Technical Committee was charged with establishing technical standards for connection to, and growth of, the network, including inter-network connectivity. The Technical Committee was further charged to recommend ways that institutions could connect to the network, and their associated costs.

Some discussions were held as to funding. It was suggested that some type of "fee" be paid by each member institution, although the fee should not be so high as to prevent "low budget" institutions from becoming members. Two classes of network "users" were discussed, one class which would provide redundant equipment, and personnel or financial resources, to ensure maximum uptime and usability; and another class which might establish a connection at a lower cost, and be willing to tolerate some interruptions to service due to hardware failures, etc. Both Committees were asked to consider the funding issues in their discussions.

The date, time, and place for the next full meeting were established as Wednesday, September 23, 1987, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Minnesota Supercomputer Center. MSC agreed to arrange for lunch to be brought in for this all day meeting.

A motion accepting MSC's offer of space, uninterruptible power, and minimal network support, and specifying that the initial location of the network hub be established at the Minnesota Supercomputer Center was made, seconded, and approved.

There being no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.