

RCWG Update

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Topics

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RCWG Description

- Remote Collaboration Working Group is representative of DOE sites and universities which use ESnet Collaboration Service (ECS)
- Purpose is to interact between DOE collaboration community and ESnet Collaboration Services (ECS) staff

RCWG Membership

Sheila Cisko, Chair	Fermilab	Kars Ohrenberg	DESY
Alan Sill	Texas Tech University	K. Estelle Dodson	NASA Ames Research Center
Andy Kromphardt	University of Iowa	Sabah Salih	University of Manchester
Art Bray	SLAC	Stan Kluz	ESnet
Carl Scimeca	Princeton Plasma Physics Lab	Lori Abry	ANL
Christian Helft	IN2P3-LAL	Marcy Santana	ESnet
Clint Wadsworth	ESnet	Martin Jara	LBNL
Brooks Collins	SLAC	Chris Masullo	Brookhaven National Lab
Deb Agarwal	LBNL	Mike Pihlman	ESnet
Ed Ritenour	LBNL	Philippe Galvez	Caltech/VRVS.org
Hans Frese	DESY	Steven Goldfarb	University of Michigan
Gheni Abla	General Atomics	Thomas Baron	CERN
Janine Jensen	Pacific Northwest National Lab	Thomas Uram	ANL/Access Grid
Jim Berry	Sandia National Lab	Terry Schalk	University of California – Santa Cruz
Joao Fernandes	CERN/VRVS.org		
Josh Stillerman	MIT		
Karl Pommer	Los Alamos National Lab		



Recent RCWG activities

- Widened membership - **new**
- Continued interaction with VRVS/EVO and Hermes (CERN/IN2P3/CNRS/INSERM) for interoperability and R&D efforts
- Forming alliances with Polycom and Codian
 - Requesting desktop H323 PVX ported to Linux & Mac
 - Codian is very responsive to ECS and community needs
- Interacted with OpenSource developers for ECS interoperability with Linux and Mac H323 clients



Recent RCWG activities

- Provided outreach to:
 - DOE Televideo Service HQ – two ECS-registered H323 rooms
 - New LHC and ILC/GDE users
 - Physics Advisory Committee – used ECS H323 service to meet
- Participated in ECS Workshop 2005
 - Four members remotely presented at SURA/ViDe Conference
(http://vide.net/conferences/spr2006/program_early.shtml)



Observations – the Good News

■ ESnet Collaboration Service



• H323

- ~1400 registered endpoints
- More registered desktops than room-based systems
 - but room-based collaboration still important
 - do not know utilization differences between desktops and rooms
- Average of ~6000 hrs/month of H323 MCU time in 2006
 - or ~ 300 meeting hours/week day
- 2 Terabytes of video/month
- ECS would be in the top 100 data flows for ESnet
- Increase of ~1000 average ports hours each year

• Voice/Data

- ~500 registered users
- Average of 2000 hr/month of Voice MCU time
- Average of 200 hrs/month of Data Collaboration time

Observations-the Good News (cont'd)

- Internet2 Commons H323 services charge \$2K per 300 port hours
 - Cost for 2005 \$480,000
 - 6000 port hours/month
- Costs if commercial services were used instead of ECS

- **H323**

- High Utilization

2004 \$1,341,540

2005 \$1,799,520

- Low Utilization

\$2,683,080

\$3,599,040

- **Audio/data**

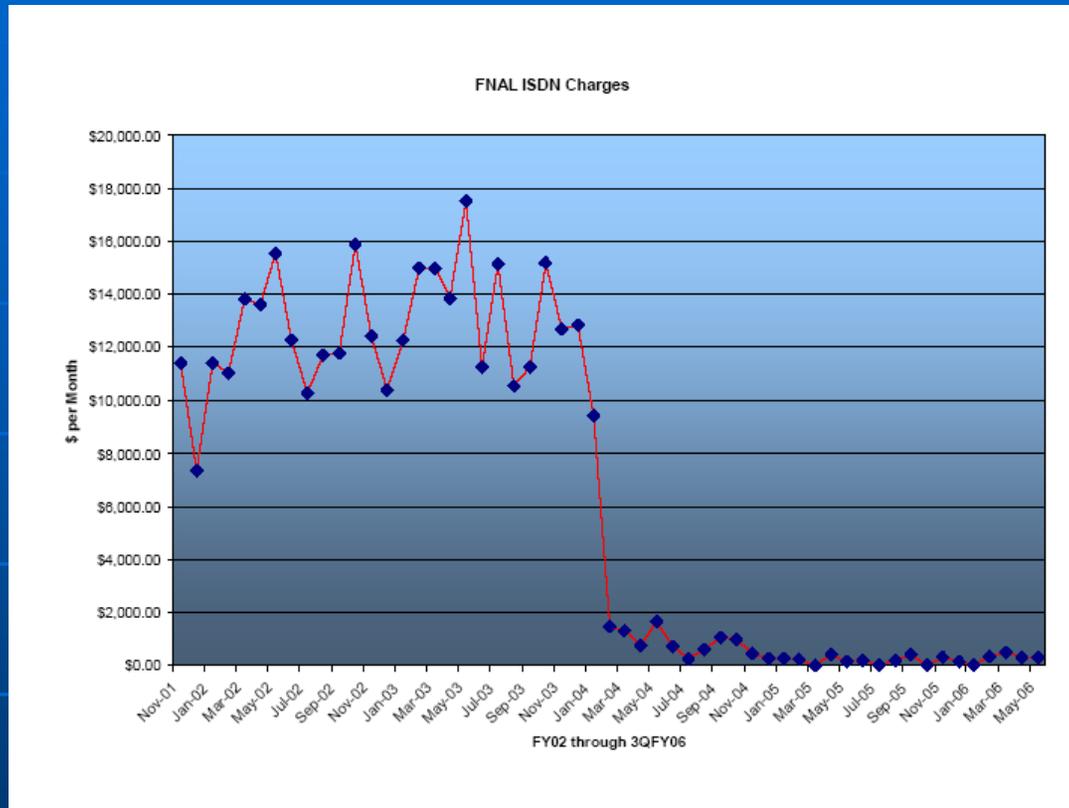
2004 \$293,955.90

2005 \$293,624.40



ECS is FREE
to the users

Observations-the Good News (cont'd)



Fermi Site Office ISDN connections to DOE/HQ

Observations – the Bad News



■ ECS Audio/data collaboration

- operating with four year old code
- no future technical development for T120 data collaboration
- can't be updated to level of technical usefulness without funding for hardware upgrades and the latest software

■ ECS infrastructure needs to be maintained and updated

Users are finding solutions through outside services that:

- do not interoperate with each other ECS/VRVS/et al
- are costly to DOE
- are no longer centralized to provide unified communication tools for all DOE/Office of Science projects

ECS Workshop 05

- Program was divided into three parts
 - Presentations from vendors
 - Keynote was the Chairman of Codian
 - Updates from VRVS/EVO, Access Grid and ViDe
 - Reports from European collaborations
CERN and IN2P3
- Attendees asking: What is the future of ECS in this era of tight budgets?
 - Continued reliability, robustness, interoperability and flexible methods to connect are desirable and required
 - Centralized collaboration services provide unified tools for scientists to interact and communicate.



ECS 05 Workshop Recommendations

■ Recommendation 1

We recommend that the ECS current H323 voice and video services be integrated:

- with state-of-the-art web conferencing solutions
- with complementary existing tools such as VRVS/EVO and other MCU services.

■ Recommendation 2

We recommend expanding gateway access as need arises for conventional telephone access to videoconferencing facilities.

Workshop Recommendations (cont'd)

■ Recommendation 3

We recommend that ECS offer:

- agenda services to include a meeting management tool
- a user directory service
- a community-wide videoconferencing facilities directory service.

■ Recommendation 4

We recommend that ECS implement:

- resources for unattended endpoint and end-to-end validation
- diagnostics of on-going meetings
- metrics about infrastructure utilization.

Workshop Recommendations (cont'd)

■ Recommendation 5

We recommend that ECS enhance user communication by providing:

- online documentation
- typical endpoint setting examples exists now
- generic room installation recommendations
- remote meeting attendee etiquette
- outreach to new experiments and users, notably LHC and ILC experiments.

■ Recommendation 6

We recommend ECS expand the current helpdesk support to 24/7.

- 24/7 support provided now by ECS staff and volunteers from ECS technical community

Workshop Recommendations (cont'd)

■ Recommendation 7

We recommend that ECS offer:

- a conference data repository service to record meetings
- a long term archiving facility, preferably the same as conference data repository.

■ Recommendation 8

We recommend that ECS:

- be provided with the resources and materials to investigate, test and assess the impact on the user experience of emerging technologies.

Workshop Recommendations (cont'd)

- Each previous recommendation requires support and funding for the preservation, expansion and enhancement of current ECS services in order to face the increasing demand from scientists and technology changes.

Conclusion

ECS currently provides reliable and robust services, such as ad-hoc multipoint conferencing, that are on the forefront of collaboration technology.

Collaboration technologies are rapidly changing and *ECS should be provided with the resources to remain on the forefront and be provided with the resources to develop and test new technologies.*

Contact Information

- Contact Sheila Cisco scisko@fnal.gov
for connection information
to join RCWG Meetings
Mondays 11amCDT
or to join mail list
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