

networking

the update on services for your institution from London Metropolitan Network

numberthreesummer2006

OPENING UP THE BENEFITS

In a far-reaching development, LMN has opened up the benefits of its powerful connectivity and high-value services more widely within the public sector.

At a seminar this spring, delegates from across the public sector came to find out how membership of LMN could lower their costs, increase service levels and open doors to successful collaboration.

Keynote speakers at the seminar highlighted the significance of wider membership in fostering collaboration across the worlds of academia, business, public service and the voluntary sector.

- An important pilot project between JANET and NHSNet, enabling academics and clinicians to work more closely together, was described by Professor Roland Rosner, Director Education & Information Support Division at University College London.
- Peter Reid, CEO of the London Technology Network, focused on innovation through collaboration, outlining the key issues that had brought success to partnership across higher education and business.
- Steve Pennant, CEO of London Connects, described lessons learned in joining up London's local authorities and the voluntary services and highlighted the public value in successful collaboration.
- From the academic world came examples of successful collaboration in library services. Jean Sykes, Librarian and Director of Information Services at the London School of Economics and Political Science, gave insights into what makes collaboration work.
- Creating commercial breakthroughs through collaboration was the topic of Russell Altendorff, Director of Information Services Division at London Business School and Chair of LMN's Business Development Group.

Russell addressed key issues on overcoming collaboration inertia and outlined practical ways to improve service levels and set up best practice legal frameworks through membership of LMN. He showed how collaboration could lead to real commercial power and innovation.

"Public sector bodies do not always realise that they may be entitled to connect to the LMN network and gain access to our range of low cost, added-value service," explained Maria Ilija, Business Development Manager at LMN. "The benefits are not only in the high-capacity network and hosted services, but also in unique discounted rates and contract terms. We can also smooth the path to successful partnerships and collaboration." (See more on page 4)

WHAT IS LMN?

LMN is London Metropolitan Network. LMN is a London-wide high-capacity advanced broadband metropolitan network delivering services and interconnecting over 100 leading Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges. Every day, LMN delivers exceptionally reliable internet services to a community comprising over 1 million students and staff.

(For further details, see PROFILE on page 4)



Steve Pennant CEO of London Connects presenting at LMN's public sector event held on 3rd March 2006 at RIBA

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Technical Update

SuperJANET5 and LMN3

The delivery of SJ5 and LMN3 holds out the prospect of a faster, more flexible and even more resilient network for LMN members for the next five years.

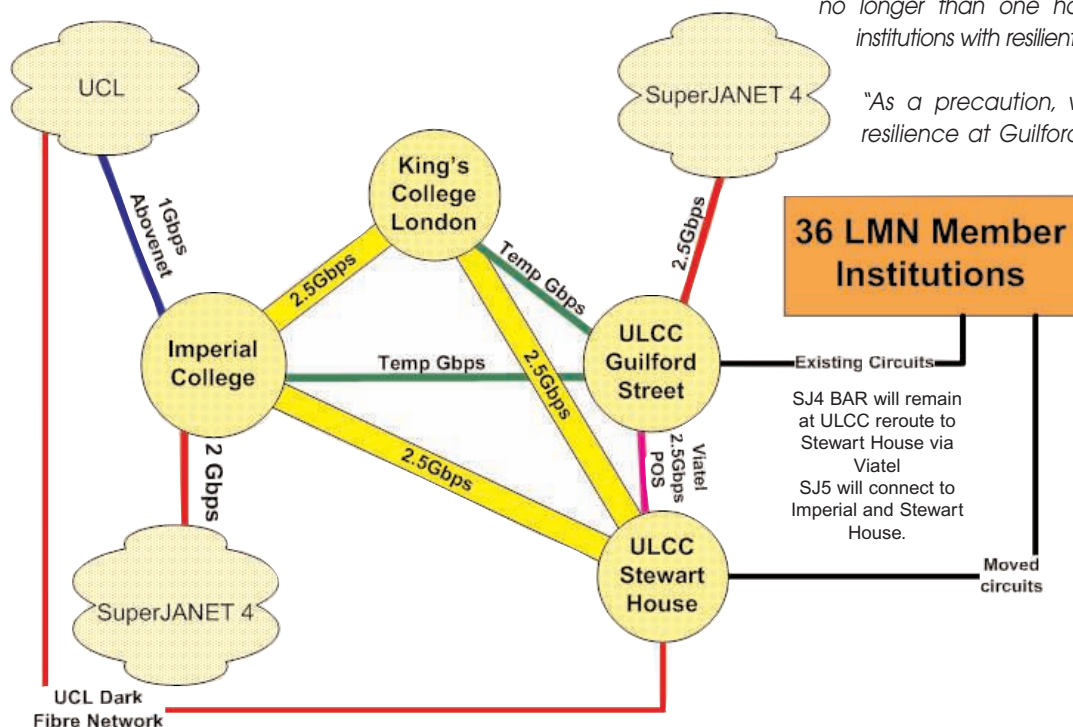
LMN has already upgraded the existing router infrastructures at Imperial College, King's College London and Stewart House to receive SJ5 at 10Gbps and SJ5 is targeted to be delivered to LMN during 2006. The procurement of the next generation LMN network (designated LMN3) has begun and the entire delivery is targeted for late 2007.

POP MOVES ON TARGET

With the closure by the University of London of Guilford House, LMN is moving its POP to refurbished machine room space at Stewart House. The move of the POP and all its associated networks has been planned for this summer by LMN CTO Peter White and communicated to 36 institutions which are affected.

"We have designed the transition plan to cause minimum disruption," explains Peter White. "During the work there will be a short interruption of connectivity to JANET on each circuit whilst we switch the connection, but this downtime should last no longer than one hour and will not affect institutions with resilient circuits."

"As a precaution, we have added extra resilience at Guilford Street, in case of any problem in the transfer and the POP here will not be decommissioned until the transfer is complete."



The following stages in the transfer are complete:

- Thus install and terminate 2 x 1Gbps circuits between Kings and Imperial and Guilford Street.
- Logicalis commission these circuits on the existing Cisco 12000 Gigabit Switch Routers (GSRs). Traffic to and from Guilford Street to sites is cut over to these circuits.
- Thus decommission the Nortel optical equipment forming the LMN core optical backbone at Guilford Street and re-commission the kit at Stewart House
- Logicalis install the Stewart House GSR and terminate and test the 2.5Gbps core POS circuits onto it.
- Thus complete all the preparatory work for tail-end shifts.

The following stages are underway, to be completed in June and July:

- SJ4 connection to Stewart House
- Logicalis management connection to Stewart House
- Tail circuits to Stewart House
- 2Mb circuits to King's

Services extended through UKERNA

The benefits of network connectivity and low-cost services, available to LMN members, have now been extended outside London to academic institutions across the UK through agreement with UKERNA.

Through UKERNA (United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association) an interconnect agreement enables delivery of Managed Services to all UK higher, further and adult education institutions across the JANET network.

The UKERNA interconnect agreement enables delivery of InTechnology's VBAK automated data back-up, data archiving, hosting and web file services to institutions connected to the network. This is UKERNA's first such agreement with a commercial service provider, resulting in 20-40% discount off list price.

"JANET users want to do a great deal more across the network than they did five years ago and we aim to help them, in particular by increasingly being an enabler of networked value-added services," said Tim Kidd, Production Services Director at UKERNA. *"A survey among users last year demonstrated that there was a strong demand for off-site backup services. Users are passing much more data around the network which needs to be stored safely and securely. Now that InTechnology is linked into JANET, academic institutions will more easily be able to access InTechnology's online back-up solutions".*

The new agreement means that subscribers to services benefit not only from a special low cost, which has been negotiated on their behalf by LMN and UKERNA, but also from the assurance of knowing that the services are provided across a secure network, to standards set by LMN.

LMN members in the London academic community are already subscribing to the managed services on backup,

archiving and hosting, to save on costs, improve service to their users and support their disaster recovery strategies.

"We are delighted to have reached this agreement that will enable InTechnology to provide specially-discounted pay-as-you-go data backup and archiving services on a national basis via JANET-related connections," said Anton Murphy, Head of Public Sector at InTechnology. *"These are proven economic services that provide efficient and effective data protection, support 24 x 7 academic computing services and ensure timely disaster recovery. They also support MIS governance, securely protect growing quantities of e-mail, MIS, student record and research data, meet internal/external audit requirements for records management and demonstrate compliance to legislation."*

"The agreement will be based on a service delivery model already proven through LMN with Institutions such as Birkbeck College, King's College London, London Business School and University of Westminster"

The web file services are of particular value to academic institutions with students around the world and global links in their research; the service manages and protects the sharing of files to assure the integrity and security of the files. Provided by LMN in conjunction with Xythos and InTechnology, the highly discounted Web File Storage service provides Web-enabled file storage that also uses WebDAV technology. One of the primary features of WFS is that each user on the system can share a file or folder with a group or individuals. Instead of the administrators having to keep creating accounts for each collaborator, the user can just create a ticket and provide the URL to the remote user.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIP

Organisations from universities and colleges to voluntary bodies and local authorities can benefit from collaborations of all kinds with partner organisations in other sectors through membership of LMN.

Through LMN's own partnerships with the London e-government bodies and other public sector interest groups, members gain access opportunities across the capital.

Technology is important in setting up collaboration - LMN is a powerful representative body which can negotiate with and influence the strategy of major technology suppliers to support members' initiatives.

The legal, financial, service level and commercial details that can hamper collaboration can be handled by LMN, to smooth the way for positive partnerships across the London academic community and with other groups.

LMN is also fostering collaboration through a dedicated educational events staff, who actively seek opportunities to stage technology knowledge transfer and best practice events for the public sector.

At LMN's own member events, collaboration, networking and socialising are encouraged. Special events dedicated to networking are especially valued by members as a way of seeking out contacts across other institutions and public sector bodies. At staff development workshops too, LMN offers the opportunity for members across the full spectrum of institutions to share experiences and gain insights, leading to collaboration in the future.

PROFILE

LMN Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation, financed by government, to operate a high-speed, high-capacity, highly resilient network, connecting around 1 million users in the Greater London area to the Internet and offering to members a powerful set of value services.

The LMN network provides high capacity internet connections to leading national organisations and institutions, connecting them via high-speed Access Links to the LMN high capacity core London network. This high capacity (2.5Gbit/s) core London network connects to the national SuperJANET backbone network, which provides onward connections to global internet.

LMN offers exceptional internet service speed and reliability by operating an *uncontended* network. This means that LMN aims to maintain a core network core capable of meeting simultaneously the peak traffic requirements of all of its users. Both LMN and the SuperJANET network are resilient and offer exceptionally high availability.

The majority of LMN Ltd funding comes from UKERNA (United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association). This funding pays for the high-capacity core London network to which members are connected via ultra-fast access links operating at speeds typically between 2Mbit/s and 100Mbit/s. LMN Ltd sets membership fees at a low level to provide a contribution towards its running costs.

Calendar of events:

- A free-of-charge LMN event is being held on 14th June at Birkbeck College on the topic of VoIP for directions and agenda please visit <http://www.lmn.net.uk/events/14jun2006/>
- A summer networking event for members with BBQ on is being held on 20th July, venue to be confirmed. For more information, please visit our events webpage at <http://www.lmn.net.uk/staffdevelop.htm>

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GENEROUS DISCOUNTS

LMN members benefit from generous discounts on a portfolio of high quality services, designed to support cost-effective IT service delivery:

- Remote Monitoring Service (RMS) provides institutions with a range of intelligent remote monitoring, maintenance and management solutions designed to maximise the performance of their ICT systems.
- Web Filtering from Evolve North - education partner of SurfControl -enables the flexible management of internet usage to suit LMN institutions, providing protection from inappropriate internet content, such as spyware, with sophisticated filtering rules that can be applied to meet the needs of different users and groups (eg, in FE institutions with a "duty of care" to under-18s.)
- InTechnology services include online back up, archiving and web file facilities, which continue to be a great success, with over 20% of the LMN community using these services. Most recent institutions include The Royal Academy of Music, ULCC and the British Library.
- Email filtering from Message Labs offers a managed e-mail filtering service so that members' systems and users get no more SPAM, viruses and unwanted content. Over 10% of the LMN community has been using this service for the past two years with excellent feedback.

Contact us to discuss your needs by emailing m.lia@lmn.net.uk

LMN Ltd offers a growing range of benefits such as:

- cost-effective access to a high-capacity, ultra-reliable internet network with options for mail and website hosting, DNS services and router supply, operation and management
- special discounted LMN member pricing on an expanding range of trusted network-related services available from a growing range of LMN strategic partners and the opportunity to participate in pilot services, trials and evaluations of effective new web-based services

The management team at LMN Ltd aims to:

- continue to improve our high-performance resilient and state-of-the-art network
- offer the best value for money
- provide a wide range of value-added services through joint ventures and partnerships
- play an active part in the regional economy as a leading provider of knowledge-based services

Disclaimer

The information in this newsletter is provided as a general guide to LMN members and no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions.

Announcement:

ULCC Launches New Hosting Suite at Stewart House, in Russell Square

Celebrate this launch with an informal tour and drinks reception on 14th July @ 3.00pm.

"ULCC has opened a new state of the art 750sq meter hosting suite located at Stewart House, in Russell Square .The new suite allows ULCC to offer a wide selection of services that range from simple server co-location to fully managed and supported services. All services are supported by comprehensive SLA's" says Tim Bush ULCC's Sales and Marketing Manager.

If you are interested in attending, or require additional information, please contact Tim Bush at t.bush@ulcc.ac.uk . Alternatively, please visit www.ulcc.ac.uk/events