

EVENTS FOR INFORMATION AND NETWORKING

LMN events present an opportunity to members not only to get informed updates on new technologies and services which are relevant to education, but also to network and meet other professionals in their field. Eight major free events are planned for the coming year, with topics including Voice over IP, wireless and peer to peer communication.

"Our event in the autumn of 2006 was a real success with over 70% of the community represented, together with delegates from universities further afield in UK," said LMN Business Development Manager Maria Iliu. "The December event on the federated authentication known as Shibboleth also attracted a good audience of members with an interest in the topic."

Forthcoming diary dates

Planned for this term are some important LMN events:

Friday 26th January	-	Annual General Meeting
Friday 9th February	-	Peer to peer communication
Thursday 8th March	-	Managed service for education: LMN in conjunction with Sun Microsystems

LMN - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO FOR EDUCATION IN LONDON

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-added 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 network. This high capacity network (2.5Gbit/s with a planned upgrade to 10 Gbit/s) connects to the national SuperJANET backbone network, which provides onward connections to global internet.

LMN offers exceptional internet service performance and reliability by operating an uncontended network. This means that LMN aims to maintain a network capable of simultaneously meeting 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 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.

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.

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

networking

the update on services for your institution from London Metropolitan Network

numberfourwinter2007

FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR LMN MEMBERS IN 2007



Geoff Cooper is the new General Manager of LMN

The coming year is set to be a time of new opportunities for LMN members, bringing not only the benefits of LMN3 this summer but also expanded services and a lively programme of events.

Supporting this progress will be Geoff Cooper, appointed as General Manager at LMN and looking forward to a full programme of development with the LMN team, Board and members.

Geoff will already be known to many LMN members as he was Director of Computing Services of the University of Greenwich until 2003 and previously Deputy Director of IT at Queen Mary, University of London. Geoff was one of the steering group that set up London Metropolitan Network as a consortium of higher education institutions in London and was Chair of the technical advisory group of LMN for several years. Having been involved at the time of the procurement of LMN2, he brings valuable experience to the current procurement of LMN3.

Having stood down from the LMN Board when he left the University of Greenwich, Geoff has since been working on major projects for the academic IT community, including projects for UCISA on information security and JISC on value for money from JANET.

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to support the further development of LMN, which, when looked at alongside other regional networks, seems to be a leader in terms of services for members" said Geoff. "I believe that the services LMN provides are clearly of interest to its members, saving money and as such providing good value."

"The big activity in the next six months will be the roll-out of the new network and the transfer over to it - I look forward to providing support for the technical and procurement teams who are working on this. LMN3 will bring significant improvement to the performance of the network and improve its functionality; this will be important to all researchers in our community who use particularly demanding applications and need massive bandwidth."

"Looking ahead, I expect some increase in the size of our community in London in 2007 and the expansion of services to our members."

NEW ASSOCIATES JOIN THE NETWORK

Two distinguished London institutions have become LMN associate members, as part of moves to extend the benefits of membership more widely:

The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, a world centre for research and scholarship in botany.

The Imperial War Museum, a major centre for study of modern war and wartime experience.

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Extra Value in VBAK

Many LMN members have signed up for InTechnology's VBAK service, provided on advantageous terms through LMN, and now InTechnology are offering the opportunity for shared access to the service at even more competitive rates.

Significant cost reductions are offered in comparison with the existing VBAK Plus (Dedicated Infrastructure) charging model. VBAK is a Managed Service for data backup, offering benefits in security and resilience to members of the academic community. Soaring data volumes being experienced throughout educational institutions, together with pressures on costs and staff time, mean that the Service is increasingly attractive to LMN members.

"I think our members appreciate the fact that the VBAK service has been fully investigated and approved by the LMN technical team and, with the subscription rates we have negotiated with InTechnology, represents very good value for money," said Maria Iliia, Business Development Manager at LMN. "The new shared service and the further discounted pricing structure will be of great interest to all of our members."

"The Dedicated Infrastructure Service will still be available to Institutions who wish to have a service infrastructure wholly dedicated to them," explained Anton Murphy of InTechnology. "However, I think there will be community-wide interest in a 'private service' at significantly lower cost, delivered using a shared infrastructure."

"The Shared Infrastructure-based service is ideally suited to member institutions, where individual compute-intensive/research-focused departments can each be provided with a private, cost-effective and low unit cost service comprising several shared Tape Library Partitions."

The latest institution to sign for the VBAK service through LMN is Christ the King Sixth Form College.

JANET / LMN - VBAK Plus Shared Infrastructure Charging Model

"VBAK Plus" Service Configuration: Recurring Service Charges		Initiation of use of LMN / InTechnology Interconnect	
	Service Activation		Total
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 28TB raw capacity, 70 LTO3 tapes, 4 drives	11000	2000	13000
NOW - 2 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 48TB raw capacity, 120 LTO3 tapes, 4 drives	5000	2000	7000
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 44TB raw capacity, 110 LTO3 tapes, 6 drives	16500	2000	18500
NOW - 3 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 72TB raw capacity, 180 LTO3 tapes, 6 drives	5000	2000	7000
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 100TB raw capacity, 250 LTO3 tapes, 8 drives	22000	2000	24000
NOW - 5 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 120TB raw capacity, 300 LTO3 tapes, 10 drives	5000	2000	7000

"VBAK Plus" Service Configuration: Recurring Service Charges (not including typical £500 - £1500 per month Backup Agent Software Management Charges)		use of LMN / InTechnology Interconnect		
	Data Storage Charge	Monthly Total	Annual Total	
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 28TB raw capacity, 70 LTO3 tapes, 4 drives	4950	325	5275	63300
NOW - 2 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 48TB raw capacity, 120 LTO3 tapes, 4 drives	2385	325	2710	32520
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 44TB raw capacity, 110 LTO3 tapes, 6 drives	6930	325	7255	87060
NOW - 3 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 72TB raw capacity, 180 LTO3 tapes, 6 drives	3420	325	3745	44940
WAS - Dedicated Tape Library: 100TB raw capacity, 250 LTO3 tapes, 8 drives	9900	325	10225	122700
NOW - 5 Dedicated Tape Library Partitions: 120TB raw capacity, 300 LTO3 tapes, 10 drives	5490	325	5815	69780

Significant cost reductions of 30%-60% are offered to the LMN community in comparison with the existing "VBAK Plus"

EXTENDING LMN MEMBERSHIP TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION

As part of its aim to offer its powerful network and services opportunities more widely in London, LMN has been actively promoting the benefits of membership to Adult Community Learning Centres (ACLs) in the capital.

A successful campaign has resulted in LMN now providing network connectivity to 26 of the 33 ACLs in London's boroughs.

The latest ACL to join is Redbridge Institute of Adult Education,

"We have had an active campaign to raise awareness of our value-added services within the London ACL community and we are delighted to welcome Redbridge as members," said LMN Business Development Manager Maria Iliia.

"E-learning is an important dimension in bringing education to a wider community in London generally and we believe that LMN has a useful role to play in supporting this activity."

Email Filtering Pays Off

A recent report from MessageLabs warns of the widespread increase in spam and the dangers to IT systems from viruses and phishing.

"MessageLabs have an impressive track record in protecting systems from these hazards and we are pleased to partner with them to offer an email filtering service to our members" said LMN Business Development Manager Maria Iliia.

The latest LMN member to sign for the MessageLabs filtering service is the Learning Skills Network.

"We are building a Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity site and needed to have the ability to re-direct our email, which normally comes into our main site, to our DR site," explains Favad Ahmed at the Learning Skills Network.

"We also needed some form of messaging hygiene so as not to replicate everything across to the DR site. The MessageLabs service gave us the simplest solution and handled this for us."

MessageLabs' achievements are marked by a series of accreditations and awards in the field of security. Notably, it was MessageLabs' proactive heuristic anti-virus engine Skeptic that in December detected and stopped a new targeted email attack which exploited a previously unknown Microsoft Word vulnerability. The attack was different to previous viruses stopped by MessageLabs but was successfully identified by using this heuristic approach.

Over 10% of LMN members are now benefiting from MessageLabs service.

"I think it is helpful for our members that they can be confident of the benefits of the service as it has been successfully demonstrated in service by our community members and is continually reviewed by the technical team at LMN," said LMN Technical Director Peter White.

"IT managers in education have issues and challenges which are not shared by the commercial world and it is reassuring, when deciding on services, to know that the MessageLabs service works well in the education environment."



CIB AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY WIDE AREA NETWORK

The University of Westminster, one of LMN's HE members, has won a Communications in Business award for the excellence of its WAN from THUS plc.

The Communications in Business Awards are for IT, networking and telecoms professionals based in the UK, and acknowledge the country's top networking projects. The University of Westminster became a forerunner among the public sector when it installed THUS' carrier-class network, which links its four key campus locations and delivers high speed (10Gbps) data transfer rates. THUS' network has dramatically improved the speed of Internet access for staff and students at the University and provides connections to JANET.

"The WAN has given us the bandwidth and speed to allow all our students, researchers, teachers and administrative staff to access high levels of content they need each day," said Vincent Lee Rose, Information Systems Network Manager of University of Westminster. *"THUS has a strong presence in the education sector and the network it has provided has exceeded ours and the industry's expectations."*

