

CANLMAN report

CANLMAN signed the JPA in August.

The FE college upgrades are underway. Some are not straight forward and may involve some network re-design. The intention is therefore to take the opportunity to make some improvements to the backbone and PoPs to give us better flexibility and reliability in the future. Where possible, we will be investigating resilience for all parts of the network.

AbMAN Report

The backup-inter core link for AbMAN using the RNEP1/RNEP2 connection is now operational. We are still waiting on 1Gbps SFPs to test using a single fibre in view of the Fibre Rating costs.

The JPA contract has required us to survey all our procedures, practices and documentation. This has taken used majority of AbMAN allocated time this summer and is not yet complete.

A dry run of our Disaster Recovery Plan was very successful in identifying some issues and these are being addressed. Although asked, JANET(UK) could not provide their plan for the RNEPs should the hosting site be lost; similarly for supplementary services and the BAN hosted at the site. The loss of the RNEP site impacts more than AbMAN as it is connected with the arc topology and the loss would interfere with the resilience of FatMAN and UHI (perhaps). There was some debate as to whom we should contact in JANET(UK) when we were doing this and if the results should be made available. The JANET Service Desk was notified so as to take no action on a fictitious outage report – we did not, in fact, contact them this time.

Stealthwatch has been purchased with a single consol and collector for Netflow. This is currently being set up.

As most of AbMAN dark fibres were supplied by Thus it will be interesting to see what changes now they are C&W. These will be up for procurement soon.

One of AbMAN Members, a sponsored connection, Rowett Research Institute, merged with the University of Aberdeen on 1st July.

NWMAN report

From now on Wales has one MAN, the PSBA Network, provided via an agreement between JANET(UK) and Logicalis. I don't know who will provide updates, it might be JANET, although they are hoping to fund someone in Wales to keep their finger on the pulse so it could be him, or her.

Kentish MAN report

In order to service upgraded links to FE colleges the links from the core to the secondary PoPs at Broadstairs and Salomons Centre (Tonbridge) are being upgraded to LES1000.

A commercial feed has been implemented to Orbital Net via the Maidstone core PoP. The establishment of a MPLS layer across Kentish MAN was completed in time to hand over a commercial service to the University of Kent for the Lambeth Conference via this link.

The project to upgrade out-of-band links is nearly complete. Access is now via ADSL in place of ISDN.

A new agreement has been signed with Canterbury Christ Church University to provide the Network Operations Centre and Support Services for three years from 1st October 2008. New Agreements are also in progress with the members hosting the core PoPs.

Recruitment is underway for a Business Manager, a new post upgraded from the previous Business Administrator role. Interviews take place at the end of October.

Imperial College London has given notice that it will be leaving Kent MAN Ltd on 30th September 2009. This is because it is closing down its operations at the Wye Campus. Preparations are in hand to remove the Wye node from the core network.

We are in the early stages of reprocurring the core network with a view to completion in the first half of 2010.

NIRAN Report

1. NIRAN II Procurement

The current NIRAN network contract with its Supplier, NTL, expires in October 2009. In this context, NIRAN hopes to commence a re-procurement of its network infrastructure over 2008/09 so that a new network can be in place to provide continuity of service to its member institutions. The procurement process will be pursued via an Open Procedure through the OJEU and the NIRAN II network must be in place by September 2009. The NIRAN II contract will likely be for a 5-year period up to end-2014.

2. NIRAN II Economic Appraisal [EA]

NIRAN has completed a comprehensive economic appraisal-business case for the procurement of NIRAN II. This has to be presented to our Funding Council, the Department for Employment and Learning, prior to any funding being approved for NIRAN II.

In order to obtain indicative costs for the appraisal, we carried out an Indicative Pricing Exercise (IPE) by preparing and sending an IPE document with all our requirements (mostly higher bandwidth – our existing PoP and Edge routers should last a second lifetime) for NIRAN II

to four of the main Telcomms operators in Ireland. I obtained approval to do this, rather than have to go to the EU journal to seek such costs, from the Central Procurement Directorate of NI Civil Service, thereby saving much time. The proviso was that we stated explicitly that the IPE was a pricing exercise and nothing more.

I received four full submissions and incorporated the analysis thereof into the economic appraisal. We are awaiting formal approval from the Department and are preparing in parallel the Invitation to Tender document and procurement groups to help run the process.

3. JPA Obligations

- **IPV6**

NIRAN has started the implementation of IPv6 on our infrastructure. The engineers were held up due to the long change moratorium imposed by JANET(UK) and the NI Universities during the Clearing/Admissions period. They are also awaiting a training course to be given by JANET(UK). One of the NIRAN PoPs is now running with IPv6 and it is hoped to roll it out to the others and Edge routers during 4Q 2008.

- **Extended Cover**

NIRAN has put in place the arrangements to provide the extended cover demands of the new JPA. This involves our in-house network operators extending their nightly sojourn to 11pm each weekday, with engineers extending the weekend cover to 11pm also.

4. Netsight-2 Request

As a consequence of the NIRAN gaining a number of new Sponsored Connections, now amounting to 12, we have found Netsight less easy to see Spon Conns status at a glance in the same way that it displays the Nominated Connections on the "Regional Status" page. I have asked JANET(UK) whether this can be accommodated, but got a no from RT. However, ML of JANET(UK) Netsight team suggests that Netsight-2 will have a facility for RNOs to create a page of their own to see, for example, Spon Conn sites status at a glance, i.e. UP - DOWN -DEGRADED.

EMMAN Report

1. Projects

Summer saw the completion of some key projects. The first 2 below are particularly significant and involved detailed planning and implementation. They both went extremely well and to time.

- a. As part of the SJ5 project the routers at each of the PoP sites went through a mid-term replacement. UPS was also upgraded at the same time. The whole work was undertaken during scheduled maintenance periods and the maximum downtime was limited to approximately half an hour.

- b. FE Circuit enhancement. As previously reported this project was to upgrade all FE colleges in the region to 100 meg. This project was also completed within planned timescales (by the end of July).
- c. FE Router replacement. JANET(UK) funded the replacement of 8 routers at FE colleges with a cascade of 8 routers thus upgrading the equipment at 16 colleges. This work began in July and was completed in August.
- d. Management Software. Solarwinds/Orion was implemented during the summer and went live on 3 Oct.
- e. College out of band access. The majority of colleges now have modems installed with the few remaining being dependant on the colleges providing new phone lines. The project is due to be completed by the end of December.
- f. Diverse routing. EMMAN has been investigating the exact routes of all its fibres. The review showed possible areas of conflict in Nottingham, Leicester and Loughborough. A plan has been developed to improve the position within Leicester and Nottingham by re-routing some of the cables and it is planned to implement this over the Christmas vacation.

2. Shared Service

EMMAN completed a feasibility study under the HEFCE initiative on the provision of a network anomaly service for the region. HEFCE have indicated their support for the service and are looking for Government funding to proceed. The planned service is part of a workshop at the shared services conference at Loughborough this week.

3. Outages.

A major outage took place at the University of Leicester PoP on Sunday 24 August. The whole building that included the computer centre was flooded by water escaping from the tank on top of the building. This major incident resulting in the out of hours procedures being implemented for the University of Leicester and EMMAN. The University of Leicester and connected colleges were down for approx one day over the Bank Holiday weekend. The majority of downtime was caused by allowing the equipment to dry out at the request of the insurers.

4. Out of Hours

All Universities that house a PoP have put in place out of hours arrangement to fit in with the new hours specified in the JPA contract.

5. Companies Act 2006

A number of new elements of the companies act come into play from the 1 October 2008. EMMAN's company secretary, David Venus & Co, are currently reviewing and updating the articles of association of EMMAN Ltd.

6. Commercial Activities

The Board of EMMAN met on Tuesday 7 October and spent the afternoon looking at its ongoing "commercial" strategy. The Board reemphasised its commitment to provided facilities for the public sector throughout the East Midlands.

A second connection to a commercial hall of residence in Nottingham is in "progress". EMMAN still await the paperwork from JANET(UK).

Report from LMN to UKMANS October 2008

Progress on LMN3 Procurement

LMN continues to install LMN3 with around 98% of new circuits (1Gbps and 100Mbps primary and resilience connections) now delivered to our HEs. Eighteen FEs in our region are being upgrade from 10 to 100Mbps and we are performing the upgrades in three tranches to ensure delivery expectations are met.

Business Development Activities

1. Timetable of events

Wednesday 15th October 2008

Archiving Compliance and Procurement

Thursday 27th November 2008

Media on Demand

Wednesday 10th December 2008

IT Directors Forum - 'Greening IT' with keynote speaker Cabinet Office Minister Tom Watson MP

Wednesday 28th January 2009

Cisco Training opportunities

2. New Services

2.1 ADSL SDSL 1:1 512Kbps to 10Mbps

LMN is currently negotiating a deal with Easynet to offer LMN members uncontended ADSL/SDSL by resiliently interlinking our two networks. We are using JANET for internet dellivery over these connections. We are offering up to 50% discount on this service and we are targeting the community's requirement for low cost connections to their outreach and satellite sites.

2.2 ISP Connectivity

LMN has chosen Verizon to provide JANET-independent internet services. LMN will offer 35% discount on ISP connectivity for the LMN community institutions.

2.3 Cisco Certified Training

LMN is continuing to offer our member up to 80% discount on the following Cisco training to our members which have proved extremely popular:

ICND1

ICND2

BSCI

BGP

We are using the world wide company Fast Lane.

