



To: MTU System Administrators Council

Date: 7 August 2003

RE: 2002-2003 MTU System Administrators IT Priorities

In the Fall of 2002, Christine Williams met with the IT Directors to clarify the intention of each item of the list. These meetings continued quarterly throughout the 2002-2003 academic year. Each item was assigned a director to lead the development of an action plan and strategy to complete the request. The following is an update on the status of each item.

The IT management team requests that the Council review and update their priority list for the upcoming academic year. We also ask that the priority list be submitted by late summer or early fall in order to facilitate the budget planning process.

1. Network Statistics (lead: B. Helminen)

A new web site (bloodshot.tc.mtu.edu) and network monitoring project was begun. The site currently contains information appropriate for public viewing such as all campus internet traffic or all Resnet network traffic, etc. Traffic statistics have been collected for each switch and port on campus for the entire year. These statistics are available to system administrators by requesting it from Telcom Engineering. We are designing a password-protected system for viewing traffic statistics by individual port on the web. We are also piloting a network configuration management system with West Engineering Computing Support. System administrators can view the output of this pilot at the Telecommunications Engineering infrastructure page accessible from www.tc.mtu.edu. This second project is critical for system administrators to determine which network device and port each of their machines is connected to.

2. SPAM Filtering (lead: D. deBeaubien)

This goal has been achieved and spam filtering is currently available for all users of IT's mail system. Users configured to receive email via the new centralized system can configure spam filtering by visiting <http://email.mtu.edu>.

3. MeetingMaker Consolidation (lead: D. deBeaubien)

All MeetingMaker calendaring servers have been consolidated and are running on the central campus server.

4. Automation of DNS requests (lead: B. Helminen)

This wasn't possible to accomplish this year, but we have signed up to be a beta partner for the Pinnacle CMS work order API testing which will take place

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around January 2004. This software library is necessary to build a web front end necessary for automating these functions.

5. Telcom Billing (simplification) (lead: B. Helminen)

The Pinnacle CMS billing system underwent a major software upgrade in January 2003. This upgrade enabled some improvements in the email billing statement. The legacy NED database was moved into Pinnacle CMS, and network charges are now being prorated. The work order API beta testing program which will be undertaken starting January 2004 will allow continued improvements in these processes.

6. Active Directory to LDAP Authentication (lead: D. deBeaubien)

DCS is currently building and testing an authentication system which will authenticate users and allow for password changes in the central LDAP directory. These operating systems include Microsoft domain controller authenticated systems (via RADIUS), Unix (via NIS/PAM), Mac (via NIS/PAM), and Kerberos authenticated systems. This project will continue throughout Fall term 2003.

7. Firewalls at the Desktop (lead: D. deBeaubien)

Investigation of this technology has been undertaken by both a sub-committee of the MTU Sysadm Council, and the CAC security committee. IT actively participates in both groups.

8. Network Monitoring (lead: B. Helminen)

All backbone and building level switches, all wireless nodes, and off campus links are monitored and device failure are responded to by pages to system engineers. All major events for all switches are logged for reference. This system will continue to be expanded over next year. Calls to the IT Network and Network Services hotline immediately page systems staff for response.

9. NIS <-> LDAP Synchronization (lead: D. deBeaubien)

(see #6)

10. Virus Scanning (lead: D. deBeaubien)

This has been completed, and is available to all central email users.