

**MINUTES**  
**LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE**  
**MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

July 12, 2011

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, 2011, in Room 153, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Claiborne Office Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Charlie McMahon, Chair of the LONI Management Council, called the meeting to order. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**Council Members Present:**

Mike Asoodeh  
Ed Driesse  
Laura Levy  
Beth Courtney  
Ed Driesse  
Donnie Vandal  
Michael Stubblefield  
Todd Barre'  
Joel Tohline  
Rachel Vincent-Finley  
Lee Bairnsfather  
Bob Fudickar  
Les Guice  
Gene Fields  
Thomas Lovince  
Brian Nichols  
Eric Setz

**Council Members Absent:**

Michael Stubblefield

**Guest:**

Lonnie Leger, LSU  
Honggao Liu, LSU/CCT  
Randy Ward, LPB/LETA  
Brett Brock, CISCO  
Blake Gonzales, Dell  
Brad Davidson, Dell  
Allen Smallwood, CIENA  
Charles Howell, JNPR  
Robert Lemm, JNPR  
Jim Jones, CIENA  
Donny Stripling, Juniper  
Dan May, AT&T  
Daryl Hunt, AT&T  
Angela Mastainich, BoR  
Randy Walker, DOA  
Bud Lanier, DOA  
Wanda Smith, DOA  
Dean Davis, Juniper  
Gareth Owen, Juniper  
Carl Brandt, LSU/LONI  
Sam White, LSU  
Dee Childs, LSU

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011 MINUTES

**On a motion from Dr. Joel Tohline, seconded by Mr. Bob Fudickar, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011 LONI Management Council meeting.**

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Mr. Charlie McMahon asked that Mr. Vandal give an update on NLR and Internet 2 activities. Mr. Vandal reported that the National Lambda Rail, (NLR), announced recently that the National Coalition for Health Integration (NCHI), a non-profit organization dedicated to the transformation of healthcare, has become a Class A Sustaining Member of NLR. The NCHI has committed a significant infusion of financial resources and will become a dominant member of the revised NLR organizational structure. LONI will retain its “Non-sustaining” status in the organization and will continue to have access to NLR services, which are targeted for improvement as a result of the new partnership (see attachment).

The focus by Internet 2 and its membership has been significantly influenced by the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) award that Internet 2, along with some project partners, was awarded for expansion of its national network footprint and capacity. One specific area of impact for LONI is that the project will likely provide the opportunity for LONI’s Mississippi partner institutions to establish their own Internet 2 “connector” capability in Jackson, Mississippi. There have been on-going discussions between LONI staff, Internet 2 staff and representatives of the Mississippi institutions regarding how this development would impact our respective operations. If the Mississippi institutions do assume a connector role with Internet 2, then LONI could lose the Mississippi participation in LONI’s Internet 2 connection cost. This could result in both Mississippi and Louisiana paying more overall for their Internet 2

connections, with a potential fiscal impact to LONI estimated at approximately \$200,000 annually. Staff will keep the council updated on those developments.

### CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Joel Tohline gave a brief overview of the history for the LSU Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) and the LONI network, beginning in 2001 (see attachment). For the past ten years the State of Louisiana has been making significant investment in IT infrastructure and development activities. Through those years, various investments have served to keep Louisiana's high performance computing capability in the top echelons of the academic and worldwide computer rankings. Investments in IT research capacity also resulted in outstanding research recruits such as Ed Siedel, who was the first director of CCT and a visionary force for developments in Louisiana's IT-related research infrastructure.

Although Dr. Tohline indicated that CCT has suffered some significant budget reductions over the past couple of years, he also outlined some recent positive developments:

- Approval of construction of the Louisiana Digital Media Facility, a 94,000 square foot building which will jointly house CCT and the EA North American Test Center (NATC).
- Establishment of HPC@LSU, a new unit dedicated to long-term support of high-performance-computing operations at LSU and support of LONI's computational infrastructure.
- Acquisition of an HPC system to replace Tezpur (the current major LSU HPC installation) which is projected to provide approximately 180% of the capabilities of Queen Bee.

There was also discussion of the extent to which LSU currently supports LONI operations, and it was indicated by Dee Childs, LSU ITS staff with lead responsibility for

HPC@LSU, that she would estimate that LSU resources contribute approximately two-thirds of the support needed for LONI HPC operations.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Vandal introduced the new members of the council: Ed Setz (LCTC System) and Thomas Lovince (Delgado Community College) as designated representatives for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System; Gene Fields (ULL), as the Chief Technology Advisor; and Brian Nichols (LSU BR) as the LSU System representative replacement for Brian Voss. Mr. Vandal welcomed them all to the LONI Management Council.

Mr. Vandal also indicated that with the recent departure of two of LONI's technical staff, there are efforts underway to advertise and recruit replacements for those positions. He mentioned that the information technology sector, particularly within the networking area, appears to be returning to a very competitive market and that staff salaries must be maintained at levels required by the market.

Mr. Vandal then turned to the issue of the direction provided by the Management Council at its last meeting regarding the need to develop a plan for the decommissioning of the IBM P575 machines. As a result of work over the past several months to identify and consider the potential effects and impacts of taking most, if not all, of those machines out of operation, the staff was prepared to make recommendations to the council for such action. The general outline of the proposed plan would be that by August 12, 2011, at least four of the IBM machines would cease running jobs, and within another month (September 12<sup>th</sup>) any files remaining on the machines must be copied by users. After some additional discussion,

**On motion by Mr. Vandal, seconded by Mr. Asoodeh, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to begin a decommissioning of all five P575 IBM machines located at the campuses of Louisiana Tech, UNO, ULL Tulane and Southern BR, within a time-frame to be established by the staff in recognition of the specific needs of researchers and campuses to transition off of their respective machines.**

Mr. Vandal provided some brief comments regarding the BTOP award and indicated that the Division of Administration is now involved in administering the project with the Board of Regents. He also referred to the current project timeline that was included in the Network Update for LONI Management Council.

Mr. Fudickar mentioned that during the legislative session there was legislation enacted which provides tax credits of 35% for software and 25% for infrastructure for businesses that are involved in the production of digital media. These should be strong incentives for business development in this emerging technology field.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Levy asked the council's thoughts on development of a research data repository that could be established as a centralized resource for researchers in order to comply with new NSF data archiving requirements. Major research efforts such as the LA-SiGMA grant recently awarded to a consortium of universities in Louisiana must have plans to comply with the data archiving and management requirements and a common solution for all institutions might make sense. Dr. Tohline mentioned an upcoming workshop/conference to be held at Princeton University on this subject and representatives from CCT and library staff at LSU will be attending to gather information and ask questions about data repository strategies. It was also suggested that LONI and LOUIS may seek to partner on this matter, as the librarians are taking a lead in this effort. It was also mentioned that the National Science Foundation (NSF) may want to invest in regional data repository centers due to all the data that is produced nationally, and that there may be some opportunities for LONI in that arena.

Mr. McMahon then asked Gene Fields to head up an effort to consider the concept of such a data repository project and to put together some short-term and long-term goals for the

future development of such a project. Dr. Levy and Mr. Barre' will also join Mr. Fields in collecting information concerning the ideas and concerns for the data repository project.

### PUBLIC EVENTS

Upcoming events currently scheduled include:

- The second annual LONI Technical forum is scheduled for July 18-19 at Pennington Foundation Conference Center
- An Internet 2 IPv6 workshop is scheduled for October 17-18 at Pennington Foundation Conference Center
- The National Science Foundation Office of Legislative & Public Affairs, in conjunction with the Louisiana EPSCOR program, will host a Science Fair entitled "Science: Becoming the Messenger, Communicating Science to a Non-Technical Audience" will be held November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.