

MINUTES
LOUISIANA OPTICAL NETWORK INITIATIVE
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October 9, 2012

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) Management Council (MC) met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at Tulane University, 1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1500, New Orleans, 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
Todd Barre' represented by Angela Mastainich
Beth Courtney
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Les Guice
Ed Driesse represented by Derald Kirkland
Charlie McMahon
Brian Nichols
Bettina Owens
Michael Stubblefield
Joel Tohline
Donnie Vandal

Council Members Absent:

Gene Fields
Laura Levy
Thomas Lovince
Eric Setz

Guests:

Lonnie Leger, LONI
George Loftus, Internet2
Linda Roos, Internet2
Randy Brogle, Internet2
Jim Bradley, Tulane University
Don Elbers, Tulane University
Vicki Hankton, Tulane University
Allie Hopkins, Tulane University
Kathy Thomas, Dell
Leo Tran, Tulane
Carol Wenk, Tulane University

APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2012 MINUTES

On a motion from Dr. Joel Tohline, seconded by Brian Nichols, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012 LONI Management Council meeting.

Chair Charlie McMahon welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized three guests who were from Internet2, George Loftus, Linda Roos and Randy Brogle, who were invited to provide some information regarding Internet2's services and fees. Mr. McMahon then asked that everyone briefly introduce themselves and indicate who they represent.

NLR AND INTERNET 2 UPDATES

Chair McMahon began by informing the Council that a small group of Council members had met in the morning for several of hours with the Internet2 guests and by video conference with Shel Wagner of Internet2, to have an in-depth discussion regarding Internet2's services and plans. At this time, during our regular Internet2 update, the full Council will have an opportunity to hear directly from the Internet2 guests on what is happening with Internet2's services. He then asks George Loftus to provide the Council some remarks on Internet2 and some of the interesting developments underway.

Mr. Loftus then summarized a variety of services and activities Internet2 is engaged in.

Those include:

- Net + Partnership, services offered as cloud services above the net. These services at some point in the future will be offered to the regional network members such as LONI.
- SIP Services, an offering which Tulane was instrumental in developing
- Storage Services
- High Performance Computing Capacity

These are services being developed in collaboration with Internet2 members, such as the SIP services and Tulane University. Such services are initiated by member institutions and regional members who have services they are interested in and that can be offered to the entire community with scalability and economies of scale.

Other areas under development are an expansion of the Internet2 network made possible by the BTOP award that was secured by Internet2, which is providing an opportunity to expand the network to 100G nationwide. Also being developed and pursued are implementation of software-defined networking and efforts to provide enhanced support for research activities through what is referred to as science DMZ's.

Finally, Mr. Loftus indicated that an additional reason for their visit today was to continue what they are describing as a "Listening Tour". This is an effort to share and discuss with regional networks and campus CIOs Internet2's plans for a new operating and business model, which would allow members to take better advantage of the network's new, expanded capabilities.

Mr. McMahon then elaborated upon the new operating and business model approaches being considered by Internet2 that were reviewed in the morning session. Basically, Internet2 is trying to realign revenues and expenses, with the likely outcome to be that charges for bandwidth and port fees will go down while individual Level 1 university member charges (participation fees) will go up. The overall result for Internet2 should be relatively neutral. For Louisiana, this will have an impact on charges the Board of Regents/LONI have been responsible for and will impact the charges for LSU and Tulane. It is expected that the new charges would be implemented in 2014.

Mr. McMahon expressed appreciation to the Internet2 representatives for their timely engagement in these discussions so that we would have adequate time to prepare for what will be coming. He then checked for questions and thanked Mr. Loftus for his presentation.

CHIEF ADVISOR REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. McMahon then asked Dr. Joel Tohline, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Council, to provide any updates on research and related activities. Dr. Tohline indicated there were a couple of things he wanted to make the Council members aware of:

- NSF recently announced that LSU has been awarded a Campus Cyberinfrastructure – Network Infrastructure and Engineering (CC-NIE) grant which will allow LSU’s CCT to get from LONI’s equipment in the Frey Computing Services Building to the new CCT building with a 40 gig dedicated bandwidth connection and 6 additional 10 gig connections from Frey into the new building. This effort fits into what Internet2 has discussed with us today as it seeks to provide expanded network capabilities at levels of 100 gig service. This proposal was developed to support the installation of the new high performance computer at LSU along with the fact that CCT houses a large fraction of the big users of high performance computers on the campus. This will put in place the much higher bandwidth capability needed to provide point to point connectivity from the researchers’ desks at the digital media center to spots around the country and around the world. Dr. Tohline also indicated that additionally, the award includes enough funds for a purchase for a year of an additional 10 gig connection into Internet 2, which will provide an opportunity to actually get to know and use the new Internet2 infrastructure and advance some high-end research endeavors. He added that they are really excited about this opportunity to try some things out, which can possibly help the other campuses to understand how to do this as well as we expand LONI’s capabilities. Mr. Loftus congratulated Dr. Tohline for securing the NSF award and indicated that it was successful in a very competitive grant offering.

- Dr. Tohline also mentioned that Dan Katz, who was formerly head of the Cyber Infrastructure Development Group at CCT at LSU and who was really instrumental in helping LONI get wedded into the national TERA-Grid infrastructure, will be visiting Louisiana in a few weeks at the invitation of Mr. Vandal. Dan left LSU a few years ago for the University of Chicago and is currently in a rotating position as a Program Monitor in the NSF office of Cyper-Infrastructure. Dan will be giving a talk at LSU on the morning of Tuesday, October 30. He will be visiting Louisiana Tech the day before and will also be visiting Tulane the next day, Wednesday, October 31. Dr. Tohline encouraged people to spread the news of Dr. Katz's visit and this opportunity to hear directly from an NSF official. He will be talking generically about Cyper-Infrastructure activities at NSF.

Dr. Les Guice then reported on an item of a research/economic development nature. He indicated that Mark Jarrell and others researchers associated with Louisiana's NSF track 1 award, the LA-SiGMA grant which is focused on computational materials research, met with Louisiana Economic Development (LED) staff about three or four weeks ago. Jeff Lynn of LED organized about 16 or 17 of their key development people to hear briefings for about an hour from the LA-SiGMA researchers about what they are doing and to see if LED could help make connections with the private sector. This outreach appears to have been received well and some of the LED staff have been in contact again wanting to get more information. Mr. McMahon expressed his appreciation for those efforts and indicated that everyone needs to keep in mind that we have got to find ways to make what we are doing relevant to the state.

Mr. Lonnie Leger then reviewed the Network Update report, and highlighted the fact that the fiber construction to Xavier University should be completed by the end of the month. Also, the Nicholls fiber project will be starting as soon final paperwork has been filed with parish

offices. The project should take between 90 to 100 days to complete. Asked for how the pricing on the Nicholls project came out, Mr. Leger indicated the project came in well under budget with a cost of about \$562,000.

Mr. Leger then mentioned several events scheduled to occur, which include a hosted workshop put on by Internet2 scheduled for December 12 and 13, a science DMZ workshop, and a webinar on capacity planning based on the analysis LONI staff had performed as part of the pricing structure review – this will provide campuses an ability to do some forecasting on their own.

Mr. McMahon then indicated that there needed to be some consideration given to how Xavier could be brought into the LONI network community as a result of their new fiber connection. Mr. McMahon asked for members willing to participate in exploring the details of accomplishing that, including determining that Xavier officials are interested, seeking input from the Board of Regents, and formulating some specific recommendations. Mr. Vandal, Dr. Guice and Dr. Tohline indicated that they would be willing to pursue those issues on behalf of the Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Vandal indicated that he and Mr. Leger had been engaged by AT&T representatives to set up a series of meetings over the next couple of months to explore issues. Of immediate concern is the issue of fiber leases that are going to be terminating in the not too distant future. A first meeting has been held, which did include Barbara Goodson and Angela Mastainich of the Regents staff. Although not definite, it appears very likely that options to renewing the fiber leases will need to be pursued. Mr. McMahon asked if he should explore that issue with AT&T contacts that he has, as he has been involved in discussions with Internet2 representatives and

AT&T at the national level. A discussion of the AT&T fiber routes, the fiber leases, their terms and conditions and options to those fiber leases then ensued.

Mr. Vandal then mentioned that staff has been having discussions with Venyu, a private firm that provides cloud, datacenter and data protection services and that has recently opened a new datacenter in the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier City, about a connection to the center for LONI. We will be exploring the degree of interest on the part of the LONI community for obtaining data storage and disaster recovery services at this new site, and will see if that interest warrants developing a strategy to obtain a direct connection between LONI and the center.

Mr. Vandal then indicated that everything has gone well with the implementation of the new internet service subscription rates and pricing structure. It has taken a bit longer than had been hoped, but good progress has been made lately. It appears from the commitments confirmed to date, that the projected levels of service will be right on target. Mr. McMahon indicated that, much like what we have been hearing from the Internet2 guests, LONI should continue to review its overall financing structure and look to aligning its services with their cost and charges.

Mr. Vandal informed the Council that he and Mr. Leger had attended the Quilt meeting in Columbus, Ohio, which was held in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of OARnet, the Ohio Academic Resources Network, LONI's counterpart in Ohio. He indicated that such longevity and service is something that LONI should aspire to.

Finally, Mr. Vandal referred the members to a proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2013, which continues the quarterly meeting schedule of this past year. If that schedule is approved, the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 8th. Mr. McMahon suggested that the proposed dates be approved and that if any particular date was determined problematic, then alternatives could be considered.

On a motion from Dr. Les Guice, seconded by Mike Asoodeh, the LONI Management Council voted unanimously to approve the meeting schedule for 2013, as proposed. (see attached)

Mr. Vandal then said that the only remaining item he needed to raise was that of the election of new officers for the next two year term. Mr. McMahon indicated that he wanted to constitute a nominating committee with the intent of having a proposed slate of officers to consider at the next meeting of the Council. He then asked for volunteers and Mike Asoodeh, along with Bettina Owens and Michael Stubblefield, indicated they would serve. Mr. Asoodeh was designated to serve as chair.

Dr. Guice then commented that it has been very helpful having Dr. Tohline's comments and insight as a researcher and how that drives the kind of network services that LONI should provide. He remarked that as this group changes a little bit, he would just like to encourage our systems to bring a little bit more research flavor to the Council. Mr. Mahon agreed with him and stressed the importance of bringing a stronger research perspective to the Council.

Mr. McMahon then indicated he wanted to make one more comment and that was regarding the issue of service disruption during the latest hurricane. He expressed concern that actions by UNO were detrimental to the New Orleans area institutions and requested that Mr. Vandal and Mr. Leger undertake some discussions with UNO to see how such issues could be rectified. Mr. Vandal and Mr. Leger responded that as a result of that recent experience two things have been pursued: (1) with the conclusion of the Xavier fiber project, there will remain a short gap of about a block and a half from the network route to the CBD area; it will be proposed that this gap be closed which will allow an active bypass not dependent on UNO's network connectivity (2) there are on-going discussions with UNO about a stand-by power back-up that would be left on to support the LONI network at all times.

Beth Courtney then interjected that LPB also had a problem since its support of WLAE in New Orleans is dependent upon a UNO facility. She indicated that they could have kept the station up and on the air during the storm, but UNO shut down that building even though it was

connected through a LONI interconnection. She asked that as part of the planning, that support for LPB's service be addressed.

Mr. McMahon then asked if anyone had any old or new business to take up, or if there were any comments about public events. Dr. Tohline pointed out that the annual Supercomputing Conference in November of this year will be in Salt Lake City, and that CCT and LONI will be sharing a booth at the conference. Mr. McMahon indicated that the conference for 2014 is scheduled to be held in New Orleans, and that he also hoped that in 2016 the Internet2 Members meeting would also be in New Orleans.

Mr. McMahon then expressed his appreciation for everyone's attendance at the meeting today. Mr. Vandal expressed his appreciation to Mr. McMahon and his staff for hosting the Management Council meeting at Tulane.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before LONI Management Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.