

## Minutes of the Syssies Prioritisation Meeting Thursday, 2nd March 1995

Present: Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Julian Turnbull, Doug Rogers,  
Alastair Scobie, Chris Cooke, Jo Blishen, David Baines,  
George Ross, Irene Orr, Rosemary Soutar, Rainer Thonnes,  
Jenny Smith, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Archie Howitt

### 1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were none.

### 2 Routine Reports

**Macs:** Paul reported on this in depth at the end of the meeting.

**PCs:** The aims are to provide an easy way of using PC windows and DOS (Timescale 1st October 1995).

To assess the suitability of PCs for Teaching Staff and investigate and evaluate the use of Macs.

The ~~OS~~ trial server is up and running.

Unix for portables is a high priority task.

**Comms:** (No intelligible report - JHB)

**User Environment:** The aim is to update and improve xemacs. The current version of xemacs runs extremely slowly. A new version will be available in the near future, the situation will then be reviewed. The aim is to have a new/more uniform environment up and running by the next academic year. There is no need to change bash at the moment. Action on CC and JTB to build this into a project.

**Management:** JHB is concerned about the slow progress of appraisals and the review process. Action on JHB to look into this matter and produce a timetable. A replacement CSO is required due to Carol's departure. Action on JENNY and IRO to review her job description.

**Housekeeping:** Patches is currently on all machines.

The upgrade to Solaris 2.4 will be less painful than 2.3 was. PAUL will help with the installation and DWB will coordinate.

AJS will investigate the problems with Patches and talk to DWB and MORNA  
(Timescale: Investigation by the end of June.)

**Information Dissemination:** The GNU Information System, LFCS Technotes and

dept Technotes are in a bit of a mess. Action on CC to identify what has to be done and what is needed.

**Security:** Kerberos needs to be employed to increase security. Someone should take a proper look at it and evaluate what is needed. (Timescale: It should be installed along with 2.4) Ac

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** GDMR and JTB have come across some stumbling blocks at the moment. Their goals are to get proper Latex/Unix installation. The Oztec/Latex installation that is needed on the Macs is on hold getting hold of fonts seems to be causing a problem.

There needs to be a massive overhaul of fonts. GDMR doesn't have the time. Someone with the knowledge of X is needed.

Action on JTB and GDMR to break down what they need to do themselves, and what can be spread out over other COs.

**Packages:** MORNA reported that use of disk space is stable at the moment but that GLC requires additional disk space for the LFCS Reports and Thesis.

Action on MORNA to find additional space.

**Front Desk:** Root access from CS and LFCS machines.

A 2nd draft of the document about backups is on the way.

**GUIs:** GDMR reported that he had installed the latest patch version for X11R6 to fix some bugs which were causing real problems for real users and real courses. The official X Consortium patches have now incorporated some of the bug-fixes that he sent in to them, but he is still fixing things and sending in bug reports.

**Printers:** Nothing to report.

**ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** There are a lot of problems with LFCS machines at the moment that need to be resolved (engineers referral). Action on MORNA and JHB to discuss. The change-over between Papa and Craro did not cause any downtime for users. This worked well.

**PH/QI; WWW:** Action on RS and JTB to create a new home page with improved performance. (Timescale: 2-3 weeks to discuss and implement). The Gnu Information Gateway needs more effort if it is to progress

The staff and student database is ready but contains errors. Action: Go public at Easter and force users to update their entries.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

### 3 Mac Support

PAUL produced a list of his current significant duties and ongoing projects and reported on what he thought should be getting done:

1) Macs:

- Attempting to come up to speed on Macs.
- Thinking about Mac (and maybe PC) system and software installation & management.
- Setting up Mac file server software repository.
- Manually installing Macs for Lab users
- Supporting Mac software - OzTex, Alpha etc.

2) Information systems:

- Looking at information system support for research (Bibliographies, Web etc)

3) Maintenance/support:

- Solaris installation stuff (lcfg)
- ph/qi

\* I should be putting more effort into (2) and less into the Mac stuff. This is partly because I'm more interested in the Mac stuff right now partly because there is nobody else to do the straightforward Mac support.

\* Someone (for the dept) really needs to be doing:

1) Responsibility for Mac support. Including user support (virtually none at present), backup procedures (seriously dangerous at present), mail (currently flakey) remote file access (too slow) and maintenance of shareware (limited). These are pre-requisites for moving the secretaries towards Macs.

2) Integrated support for Tex to include Macs (and PCs) so people can have a reasonably consistent environment across machines.

3) Thinking about Solaris 2.4

4) Doing something about the (6 year old) user environment other than just talking about it :-)

5) Someone should attempt to come up to speed on PCs so that we are in a position to evaluate their usefulness (maybe ajs is doing this).

6) Probably other things too!

#### **4 Syssies Newsletter**

CC was nominated "Editor" for the Syssies Newsletter. It was agreed that there would be an edition once a term and one in the summer. There will be an on-line version and a paper copy.

#### **5 Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 16th March, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Form is shamelessly copied from Paul's similar Doc for Macs in March :-)  
(Some points copied directly from the Mac document as they apply equally  
to PCs and are worthy of reiteration)

Some possible reasons for looking closer at PCs  
=====

- o The department is heavily Unix-based at present and it seems like a good idea to investigate whether other systems such as PCs and Macs could provide a better alternative for some kinds of work in the future.
- o There is a lab of 15 PCs in the north m/c hall which are notionally dedicated to the CS3 major practicals. These currently run NetBSD (a PD unix), but there has been talk of making at least the CS3 major individual exercise a Windows based exercise (to replace the current unix-based Operating System exercise). These PCs are also considerably under-utilized.
- o There are a number (?) of PCs in the CS4 hardware bunker which support CS3 and CS4 hardware design. These are currently setup as individual machines, with most applications installed on the PCs' hard disks. PC/NFS is used for a common filesystem, but this has not been very reliable and has very poor security.
- o The University preferred platform is the PC running Windows with a Novell network environment underneath. Most of the public labs in the University are PCs. We might be able to make better use of those labs if we moved at least some course material onto PCs. To do this, teaching staff need to have better access to the sort of environment that their course material would run under.

System Support Issues  
=====

- o As with Macs, we have relatively little experience at managing a large number of PCs. Unlike Macs, we need to concentrate not on supporting individual user machines but with public machines. This affects the applications we need to support and the way those applications are mounted on the network.
- o To maintain compatibility with the rest of the University, we should concentrate on providing a Novell (v4.1) based network environment.
- o Windows does not separate machine specific from user specific configuration in its configuration files (WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI etc). eg. which device drivers to load is specified in the same file as the current screen resolution (something the user might want to be able to specify).
- o There are a number of network backup packages. The University has a site license for the most popular - ArcServe.

Application Support Issues  
=====

- o As with Macs, it would make sense for applications to be supported by the same person as is supporting them under unix.
- o This involves the application specialists being committed to maintaining applications across the multiple platforms.

What I think is happening now  
=====

- o I am trying to learn more about PCs and thinking about installation

and configuration issues. There might be ways in which this can be \*sort\* of tied in with the Mac configuration issues so Paul and I are in contact over this.

- o I am in contact with MFT about obtaining Novell v4.1

What I think we could (should?) do soon  
=====

- o Think about the sort of applications we want to support on the PC platform.
- o Continue to think about the installation/configuration issues and produce a solution

# Syssies Prioritisation Meeting

Thursday 16th March 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

- Macs (paul)
- PCs (ajs)
- Comms (ajs)
- User Environment (cc)
- Management (jhb)
- Housekeeping (rwt)
- Information Dissemination (cc)
- Security (gdmr)
- Latex/TeX/Fonts (jtb/gdmr)
- Packages (iro/all)
- Front Desk (iro/jenny)
- GUIs (gdmr)
- Printers (jst)
- ML (jst)
- Internet Services (not WWW) (morna/dwb)
- PH/Qi; WWW (jtb/rs/ddr)
- Databases (rs)
- Research Systems (LFCS) (morna)
- Research Systems (Non-LFCS) (rwt)
- Teaching Systems (dwb/ajs/arch)

- Planning (ajs)

5. Items for Discussion
  1. Communications-related issues (AJS)
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

**Minutes of the Syssies Prioritisation Meeting  
Thursday, 16th March 1995**

**Present:** Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Julian Turnbull, Doug Rogers,  
Alastair Scobie, David Baines, Archie Howitt, Irene Orr  
George Ross, Rosemary Soutar, Rainer Thonnes,  
John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
**Apologies:** Chris Cooke, Jenny Smith, Jo Blishen

## **1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Bell trial server should of read Novell trial server under the heading PCs.

AJS should have read DWB under the heading Houskeeping with regard to investigating the problems with patches.

The wrong mail message from Paul was included under the heading Macs. This has now been circulated.

## **2 Matters Arising**

### **2.1 User Environment**

Both CC and JTB were not in attendance at the meeting and their action was carried forward to the next meeting.

### **2.2 Management**

JHB reported that the job description for the new CSO would include shadowing JENNY, CAROLS duties on Macs and PC's and assisting JHB.

### **2.3 Information Dissemination**

Reminders have been sent out to staff asking them to update their technotes.

### **2.4 Security**

It was agreed that GDMR should call a meeting to get a proper idea of what people are doing and to discuss the findings at the next Syssies meeting.

Action: GDMR

## **2.5 Latex/TeX/Fonts**

It was decided that IRO would taking on some TeX support.  
Fonts are no longer dependent on X windows.  
Jo will still coordinate and report.

## **2.6 Packages**

Morna found disk space for GLC. She has not put it on yet because GLC is buying a new DAT Drive for Mousa.

JHB to find some back-up capacity.

Action: JHB

## **2.7 Front Desk**

The second draft of the document about backups will be presented at the next meeting.

Action: IRO

## **2.8 Internet Services (not WWW)**

JHB and MORNA to specify the chain of responsible COs for CS and LFCS (e.g. incase of an emergency).

Action: JHB/MORNA

## **2.9 PH/Qi**

RS and JTB are still on track with a new home page. The test server is up and running and the new pages are on it.

## **3 Chairmans Business**

The separation of meetings. JHB deferred to the end of the meeting.

## **4 Routine Reports**

**Macs:** Paul reported that JST is coordinating mac-based activities for CS machines. A new wire has been created and IRO is in the process of moving the Macs onto it. A back-up of retrospect remote is on order.  
It was decided that AJS should be involved in mac back-ups for PC compatability.  
It was suggested that MORNA sorted out mail on the Macs. X-Windows for the Mac needs investigating.

Action: MORNA/GDMR



**PCs:** Nothing to Report.

**Comms:** AJS reported that YP access is causing general performance problems. AJS will investigate. Wire-A has traffic problems. AJS to investigate cost of further/faster CISCO router port.

Action: AJS

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** JHB reported that he would like to get the appraisals started. JHB to produce a time-table.

Action: JHB

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** GDMR to produce a set of guidelines.

Action: GDMR

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** Nothing to report

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** Nothing to report.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers:** JHB reported that the Paint-Jet printer was to be moved into ARCH's Lab (1507).

Action: JHB/ARCH

JHB has asked RJP if he requires accurate figures for the printing and photocopying account (the bill is £30,000).

JHB to shift copy-controller off Harris.

Action: JHB

AJS to arrange a Technician's and CO's meeting. The findings of this meeting should be reported back to JHB.

Action: AJS

**ML:** JHB feels there are a lot of subvariants of ML.

It was suggested that a version of ML should be discontinued (perhaps Edinburgh-ML)

**Internet Services (not WWW):** MORNA reported that she needed some help going outbound over PP. PAUL offered to help.

MORNA will keep dave informed of what she's doing.  
Morna to write a user-guide for DCH and JENNY and also a list of mail related things that should be given to JHB.

Action: MORNA

**PH/QI; WWW:** Nothing to report.

**Databases:** RS reported that something needed to be done for the first year students. It was decided that nothing would be done until the new co-ordinator is in place.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** JHB is putting a committee together to identify requirements and the best deals on offer and RWT will identify any old machines in the department in need of replacing and report back to JHB before the first planning meeting.

Action: JHB/RWT

## **5 Any other Business**

JHB asked whether the Syssies Prioritisation Meetings were being held too frequently, the syssies agreed they should still meet every 2 weeks.

## **6 Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 30th March, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Some possible reasons for looking closer at Macs

=====

- o The department is very heavily Unix-based at present and it seems like a good idea to investigate whether other systems such as Macs (and/or PCs) could provide a better alternative for some kinds of work in the future.
- o The demand for portables is growing and Macs appear to offer the most promising solution.
- o Most (all?) secretaries are using Macs and if we want to move away from secretaries routinely using two workstations, then it seems easier to move towards using the Macs for most things, rather than Unix.
- o Several staff are now using Macs as their main everyday machines (gdp,kevin,glc,mkl,paul!). Quite a few other staff are using them as second machines, often as portables or at home.
- o There is some demand for Mac-based student projects which we don't satisfy very well.

System support issues

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- o There is a lot of Unix expertise in the department which means that the information is available to solve problems and make decisions quickly. There is much less expertise for Macs so we sometimes don't even know what is possible, or what is available.
- o The Mac environment has system-specific management problems which are quite different from Unix. For example, Macs/PCs appear to be harder than Unix systems to support efficiently in large numbers and some work is needed to decide how much this can be automated/integrated (and whether this is a good idea).
- o Other system problems include backups and file sharing.
- o We have lost out front-line support for Macs now that Carol has left.

Application support issues

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- o For a mixed environment to be useful, there must be some degree of application compatibility between the Macs and the Unix systems.
- o In the same way that we don't have a single "Unix specialist" supporting all the applications on the Unix systems, it doesn't seem sensible to expect a single person to support all the applications on the Mac. Especially, if we want compatibility, it is best if the applications are supported by the same person who is supporting them under Unix.
- o This involves the application specialists being committed to maintaining the applications across the multiple platforms.
- o The largest demand for Mac applications is currently text processing and mail/communications, so the following are immediate candidates for being supported in this way:

TeX/LaTeX  
Mail  
X Window System

What I think is happening now

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- o Jst has a written Technote for installing a basic Mac system. This was being used by Carol, but quite a few users are installing their own machines in different ways. Most systems seem to be very different and there is no policy for software upgrades.
- o I am trying to learn something about the Mac and thinking about installation and configuration issues.
- o I have installed a Mac server (Arkle) as a software repository to replace the Unix Mac software volume. I can continue to manage this.
- o Various methods are being used for backup, including personal tape drives, backups to Unix, and no backup at all. Retrospect Remote is going to be installed on the new server to back up the server and some LFCS machines.
- o Jo is integrating the LaTeX support between Unix & Macs.
- o Jst is maintaining the Mac networking and CAP/AUFS and the Mac software repository on Unix.

What I think we could (should?) do soon

=====

- o We have everything we need to provide the Macs with a separate wire. This would simplify Appletalk routing and speed up access to the server. The new wire needs plugging in and the Macs need transferring. Once this is in place, we can have a major re-think of the routing and zoning.
- o We need a workable version of OzTeX that is compatible with the Unix version, including fonts and style files.
- o Versions of X for the Mac need investigating/comparing.
- o We need a proper backup system. This includes recommended software and integration of the procedures with the Unix backups (tape storage etc.)
- o The Pop mail server needs replacing, probably with the IMAP server running under Solaris. Mail support should be included tother with the Unix mail, rather than being a separate "Mac" issues.
- o We need to migrate the software repository onto the new server (Arkle).
- o We need someone to replace Carol in providing front-line Mac support.

What we could (should?) do in a slightly longer term

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- o We should have some mechanism for helping to install and update Macs. This could be as simple as a policy and some guidelines to help people do things themselves, or it could be a fully automatic system. Probably somewhere between the two.
- o It is not clear if the existing CAP file service is adequate, either in terms of speed, or functionality, for heavy sharing of documents between Mac & Unix (eg. permissions and shared documents). This needs investigating.
- o We should survey the applications that secretaries are running on Unix and see if there are adequate Mac-based replacements.

# Syssies Prioritisation Meeting

Thursday 30th March 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| → Macs                      | (paul)         |
| PCs                         | (ajs)          |
| Comms                       | (ajs)          |
| User Environment            | (cc)           |
| Management                  | (jhb)          |
| Housekeeping                | (rwt)          |
| Information Dissemination   | (cc)           |
| Security                    | (gdmr)         |
| → Latex/TeX/Fonts           | (jtb/gdmr)     |
| Packages                    | (iro/all)      |
| Front Desk                  | (iro/jenny)    |
| GUIs                        | (gdmr)         |
| Printers                    | (jst)          |
| ML                          | (jst)          |
| Internet Services (not WWW) | (morna/dwb)    |
| PH/Qi; WWW                  | (jtb/rs/ddr)   |
| Databases                   | (rs)           |
| Research Systems (LFCS)     | (morna)        |
| Research Systems (Non-LFCS) | (rwt)          |
| Teaching Systems            | (dwb/ajs/arch) |

← Reality ~~Paul~~ (ajs)

5. Items for Discussion
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

**Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting  
Thursday, 20th April 1995**

Present: Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Doug Rogers, George Ross,  
Alastair Scobie, David Baines, Rosemary Soutar, Chris Cooke,  
Jo Blishen, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr, Jenny Smith,  
John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Archie Howitt, Rainer Thonnes.

**1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

**2. Matters Arising**

**2.1 Security**

GDMR will report the preliminary findings of his meeting at the next Progress meeting.

Action: GDMR

**2.2 Backup Devices**

Action on IRO to purchase DATs

Action: IRO

**2.3 Front Desk**

IRO is in the process of writing the draft document. This will be ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: IRO

**2.4 Internet Services (not WWW)**

JHB and MORNA have still to discuss the COs chain of responsibilities. This action will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Action: JHB/MORNA

**2.5 Management**

JHB will approach individuals who have not had an appraisal yet and specify dates.

Action: JHB

2.6.

**2.7 Printers**

AJS has had a meeting with the technicians and CO's and he will keep JHB informed of the findings.

JHB has begun the process of shifting the copy-controller off Harris.

### 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

### 4. Routine Reports

**Macs:** The remaining Macs have to be transferred to the new wire as soon as the Hub becomes available.

Action: MORNA/IRO

JHB to check whether X-Windows software was ordered.

Action: JHB

PAUL has to produce a list of Mac software.

Action: PAUL

**PCs:** AJS will report on the York meeting at the next Syssies Meeting.

Action: AJS

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** JHB reported that AJS will be representing the COs point of view on proposed management changes at the next planning committee meeting. AJS will speak to each individual.

Action: AJS

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Items still promised for the newsletter.

Action: ALL

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** There are some serious problems with fonts. DA will look at it from the Unix end and PAUL will look at it from the Mac end.

Action: DA/PAUL

All Latex/TeX problems should be mailed to JTB or IRO.

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** Nothing to report.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers:** JST reported that HP24 now has more memory and it should be able to print GIFs.

Paul reported that HP16 now has a disk in it containing all the fonts and it seems

to be working well.

**ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** It was suggested that all the Syssies should be moved to the new mail system by next week. PAUL reminded MORNA about IMAP

Action: MORNA

**PH/Qi; WWW:** JTB to call a meeting with RS, DDR, JENNY, IRO, TLC and CC to discuss the entering of new students and staff on to QI and also maintaining the Web pages, the phone list and packages information.

JHB reported that Sun donated a new SS20/51 server to the department and this could be used as a WWW server. Action on JTB the identify the requirements of the server.

Action: JTB

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** MORNA reported that the new DAT drive isn't working properly.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** The CS2 machines are currently being upgraded. There are electrical problems with the wiring in the machine halls.

**Reality:** the Reality machine is now up and running in the middle lab. The auto-mounter is on it and CC will install bash on it.

Action: CC

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** Nothing to report.

## 5. Any Other Business

MORNA reminded JHB that syssies need more access to Macs for development work.

## 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 4th May, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:20pm.



# Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting

## Thursday, 20th April 1995

Present: Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, George Ross, Jenny Smith, Alastair Scobie, David Baines, , Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, Jo Blishen, Archie Howitt.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 Security

GDMR has written the draft security paper. This is available for viewing in his Progress directory.

#### 2.2 Backup Devices

IRO is in the process of purchasing DATS.

#### 2.4 Front Desk

IRO is in the process of writing the draft back-up document. This will be ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: IRO

#### 2.4 Internet Services (not WWW)

JHB and MORNA are starting to identify the COs chain of responsibilities.

#### 2.5 Management

JHB will approach individuals who have not had an appraisal yet and specify dates.

Action: JHB

AJS will speak to the COs individually about the proposed management changes after a new Head of Department is elected.

#### 2.6 Macs

JST will transfer the remaining Macs to the new wire as soon as the Hub becomes available.

Action: JST

Action on JHB to chase up the X-Windows software.

Action: JHB

PAUL will produce a list of Macintosh software and email it to all the COs.

Action: PAUL

#### 2.7 Information Dissemination

There was positive feedback from staff members about the new Syssies Newsletter. The next one is scheduled for August.

#### 2.8 Latex/TeX/Fonts

PAUL is worried about the problems with fonts. Action on JHB to call a meeting

to discuss this.

Action: JHB

## **2.9 Internet Services (not WWW)**

Everyone has been moved to the new mail system and everything seems to be running fine with no major problems.

## **2.10 PH/Qi; WWW:**

A meeting was held between RS, DDR, JENNY, IRO, TLC and CC to discuss the entering of new students and staff on to QI and also the maintenance of the WWW pages, phone list and packages information. JTB was not in attendance at the Progress meeting to report the findings. This action will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Action: JTB

## **2.11 Reality**

Bash has been installed onto the new reality machine and everything seems to be running fine.

## **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

## **4. Routine Reports**

**Macs:** PAUL reported that the Retrospect Remote has arrived and it seems to be working well. Action on Paul to order a couple of packages to go with the Multi-Media Macintosh.

Action: PAUL

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Nothing to report.

**Housekeeping:** RWT reported that he needed some more disks. JHB agreed to buy a couple of disks with the SHEFC money.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** Nothing to report.

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** Action on JENNY to chase-up the new tape rack.

Action: JENNY

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Nothing to report.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** Nothing to report.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** This is ongoing.

## **5. Any Other Business**

**5.1 Mail:** MORNA reported that the user agents in use are old and could do with being replaced with new agents. There is a need for support for MIME and encrypted mail. There are a couple of options: 1/ Fiddle with the existing user agents 2/ Look for better ways and do it over the summer in time for the start of term in October. MORNA reported that she has put in a bid for a vacation student in the hope that he could do a survey of the various user agents on option and report back his/her findings.

**5.2 Equipment:** AJS had a meeting with DWB, GDMR and RWT. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed.

**5.3 Requests for Vacation Students:** It was agreed that there should be some decisions made about the work for the vacation students before the deadlines so that everyone knows what they're supposed to be doing over the summer vacation.

**5.4 Package Accounts Management:** It was agreed that someone should be appointed as "Package Manager" to take a note of the pattern of disk shortages on line and report on it later. (Action on JHB to nominate someone).

Action: JHB

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 18th May, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:25pm.

# Syssies Prioritisation Meeting

Thursday 4th May

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Macs                        | (paul)         |
| PCs                         | (ajs)          |
| Comms                       | (ajs)          |
| User Environment Management | (cc)           |
| Housekeeping                | (jhb)          |
| Information Dissemination   | (rwt)          |
| Security                    | (cc)           |
| Latex/TeX/Fonts             | (gdmr)         |
| Packages                    | (jtb/gdmr)     |
| Front Desk                  | (iro/all)      |
| GUIs                        | (iro/jenny)    |
| Printers                    | (gdmr)         |
| ML                          | (jst)          |
| Internet Services (not WWW) | (jst)          |
| PH/Qi; WWW                  | (morna/dwb)    |
| Databases                   | (jtb/rs/dwb)   |
| Research Systems (LFCS)     | (rs)           |
| Research Systems (Non-LFCS) | (morna)        |
| Teaching Systems            | (rwt)          |
| Reality                     | (dwb/ajs/arch) |
| Planning                    | (ajs)          |
| Solaris 2.4                 | (ajs)          |
|                             | (dwb)          |
5. Items for Discussion
  - 5.1 Mail (morna)
  - 5.2 Equipment (ajs)
6. Any Other Business
  - 6.1 Requests for vacation student time (paul)
  - 6.2 Package accounts management (paul)
7. Date of Next Meeting

## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 4th May 1995

Present: Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, George Ross, Jenny Smith,  
Alastair Scobie, David Baines, , Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull,  
Irene Orr, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, Jo Blishen, Archie Howitt.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 Security

GDMR has written the draft security paper. This is available for viewing in:  
*~gdmr/Progress/docs/sys-security.dvi.*

#### 2.2 Backup Devices

IRO is in the process of purchasing a DAT drive.

#### 2.3 Front Desk

IRO is in the process of writing the draft back-up document. This will be ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: IRO

#### 2.4 Internet Services (not WWW)

JHB and MORNA are starting to identify the COs chain of responsibilities.

#### 2.5 Management

JHB will approach individuals who have not had an appraisal yet and specify dates.

Action: JHB

#### 2.6 Macs

Action on JHB to chase up the X-Windows software.

Action: JHB

PAUL will produce a list of Macintosh software and email it to all the COs.

Action: PAUL

#### 2.7 Information Dissemination

There was positive feedback from staff members about the new Syssies Newsletter. The next one is scheduled for August.

#### 2.8 Latex/TeX/Fonts

PAUL is worried about the problems with fonts. Action on JHB to call a meeting to discuss this.

Action: JHB

#### 2.9 Internet Services (not WWW)

All syssies have been moved to the new mail system and everything seems to be running fine with no major problems.

### **2.10 PH/Qi; WWW:**

A meeting was held between RS, DDR, JENNY, IRO, TLC and CC to discuss the entering of new students and staff on to QI and also the maintenance of the WWW pages, phone list and packages information. JTB was not in attendance at the Progress meeting to report the findings. This action will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Action: JTB

### **2.11 Reality**

Bash has been installed onto the new reality machine and everything seems to be running fine.

## **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

## **4. Routine Reports**

**Macs:** PAUL reported that the Retrospect Remote has arrived and it seems to be working well. Action on Paul to order a couple of packages to go with the Multi-Media Macintosh.

Action: PAUL

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Nothing to report.

**Housekeeping:** RWT reported that he needed some more disks. JHB agreed to buy a couple of disks with the SHEFC money (though noted that there were restrictions on their use).

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** PAUL expressed concern about progress on some aspects of latex support. JHB agreed to call a meeting to review the situation.

Action: JHB

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** Action on JENNY to chase-up the new tape rack.

Action: JENNY

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Nothing to report.

PH/Qi; WWW: Nothing to report.

Databases: Nothing to report.

Research Systems (LFCS): Nothing to report.

Research Systems (Non-LFCS): Nothing to report.

Teaching Systems: Nothing to report.

Reality: Nothing to report.

Planning: Nothing to report.

Solaris 2.4: This is ongoing.

## 5. Any Other Business

**5.1 Mail:** MORNA reported that the user agents in use are old and could do with being replaced with new agents. There is a need for support for MIME and encrypted mail. There are a couple of options: 1/ Fiddle with the existing user agents 2/ Look for better ways and do it over the summer in time for the start of term in October. MORNA reported that she has put in a bid for a vacation student in the hope that he could do a survey of the various user agents on option and report back his/her findings.

**5.2 Equipment:** AJS had a meeting with DWB, GDMR and RWT. The minutes of the meeting are enclosed.

**5.3 Requests for Vacation Students:** It was agreed that there should be some decisions made about the work for the vacation students before the deadlines so that everyone knows what they're supposed to be doing over the summer vacation.

**5.4 Package Accounts Management:** It was agreed that someone should be appointed as "Package Manager" to take a note of the pattern of disk shortages on line and report on it later. (Action on JHB to nominate someone).

Action: JHB

## 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 18th May, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:25pm.

Subject: Systems Provisional first attempt Look at the summer spend  
Date: Tue, 02 May 1995 12:06:51 +0100  
From: Alastair Scoble <ajs@dcs.ed.ac.uk>

Present: DMB, GDMR, RWT, AJS Date: 29/3/95

Goals (no priority implied)

- 1) 3/50s and 3/110s (22 m/cs) -> bucket
- 2) improve resource provision for external users (eg students in Xlabs)
- 3) better facilities for PGs
  - more office workstations
  - less, more powerful m/cs in 2501
  - compute server ?
- 4) improve teaching staff m/cs where necessary
- 5) turn SSlS (and possibly SSl+, IPCs) to xterms
- 6) decrease number of client servers
- 7) increase number of servers with tape drives
- 8) general increase in disk space
- 9) beefy, dedicated WWW server

Solutions

- 1) The new SSSs have displaced 24 x 3/80s. 22 of these can directly replace the 22 'oldies'. The remaining 2 can go into PG offices to help satisfy 3).

- 2) As more and more public labs come on stream, we are going to face increased external loads on our service. Unfortunately we don't really separate external loads from internal loads - eg the CSI servers serve both the CSI xterminals and CSI users in public labs. As a result we have a possible unbounded load on our servers, and so can't predict the response time of our servers.

We suggest that we segregate external users from internal users. Servers which serve a set of Xterms would serve only those Xterms and nothing else. No users from external labs, no users from client machines. We would setup dedicated external servers and, to ensure that the load is bounded, restrict the number of simultaneous logins to those servers. Suprisingly(?) the TC (SOA) supports these ideas.

The new SSS installation release a couple of big SS2s that could be dedicated to external access. We feel that we should buy at least one big SS20 in addition.

- 3) The PGs have suffered in their resource provision for a number of years. They would like more X seats in their offices and less but more powerful machines in 2501. They would also like a compute server so that they don't upset calvay users.

At the moment 2501 consists of :-

- 5 NCDs (b/w)
- 2 SSl+ (colour)
- 2 IPX (colour)
- 1 ELC

We propose that we cut this back to

- 2 IPX (colour)
- 2 NCDs (b/w)

and add 2 x SSSs (colour). These machines should maybe have loads of memory.

This would release 6 m/cs (2 x SSl+(col), 3 x NCD and an ELC) which

would go into PG offices. Add the 2 x 3/80s released from 1) above and we've bumped up the no. of PG office seats by a total of 8.

- 4) Many of the teaching staff clients are becoming antiquated. There are quite a few SSl(+) machines that should turn into Xterms and be replaced by SSSs. Precisely who gets the SSSs needs to be discussed among the teaching staff.

- 5) SSl(+)'s and IPCs are becoming too slow and memory deficient to cope with much that this is thrown at them. It's time for them to retire into Xterminal mode.

This will require a further Xterminal server (possibly release from goal 6), or we could upgrade rhum (SS2) to an SS20 to take on the additional load.

- 6) There are now 6 client servers for the dept clients, 4 of which are SSl+. There are many reasons for consolidating onto fewer servers :-

- cheaper to move to more powerful servers
- less LPUing
- cheaper to guarantee tape drive per server
- cheaper to move to a new wire A technology

We propose that the existing four teaching client servers are replaced by two SSS servers, with wide differential, SCSI disks and a DAT drive each. Using quad ethernet cards, both servers could be hosted on 4 client wires.

The staff client servers can be upgraded next year.

- 7) Purchase more DAT drives for servers with significant home filesystems.
- 8) Purchase more drives. JHB has a possible cheap source of 2Gb drives.
- 9) JTB et al to specify a beefy, dedicated WWW server. The donation machine from CRS/SUN might do for this.



# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 18th May

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. Matters Arising

3. Chairman's Business

4. Routine Reports:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Macs                        | (paul)         |
| PCs                         | (ajs)          |
| Comms                       | (ajs)          |
| User Environment            | (cc)           |
| Management                  | (jhb)          |
| Housekeeping                | (rwt)          |
| Information Dissemination   | (cc)           |
| Security                    | (gdmr)         |
| Latex/TeX/Fonts             | (jtb/gdmr)     |
| Packages                    | (iro/all)      |
| Front Desk                  | (iro/jenny)    |
| GUIs                        | (gdmr)         |
| Printers                    | (jst)          |
| ML                          | (jst)          |
| Internet Services (not WWW) | (morna/dwb)    |
| PH/Qi; WWW                  | (jtb/rs/dwb)   |
| Databases                   | (rs)           |
| Research Systems (LFCS)     | (morna)        |
| Research Systems (Non-LFCS) | (rwt)          |
| Teaching Systems            | (dwb/ajs/arch) |
| Reality                     | (ajs)          |
| Planning                    | (ajs)          |
| Solaris 2.4                 | (dwb)          |

5. Items for Discussion

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting

## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 18th May 1995

Present: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, Chris Cooke,  
Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Archie Howitt, Lindsey Brown,  
Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie, John Butler (Chair),  
Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, David Baines, Julian Turnbull, Morna Findlay,  
Irene Orr.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting should of read "It was decided that CC would look after the POP mail server".

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 PH/QI; WWW (Carried Forward)

*Action on JTB and CC to write a style-file for tech reports. This is in progress.*

Action: JTB/CC

#### 2.2 Admin (Carried Forward)

AJS reported that he was having problems with Amanda. IRO said that she would make it give warnings instead of failing under certain startup conditions.

Action: IRO

#### 2.3 Mail Report

CC is going to speak to PAUL about looking after the POP mail server.

Action: CC

#### 2.4 ML Report

JST and DWB agreed to poll the coordinators directly regarding information on teaching requirements for ML. JST has done this and cc'd the message to the lecturers that he knew to be involved with ML teaching last year. This has yielded some useful information, though it is disappointing to note that some members of staff have not yet replied

#### 2.5 Systems Networking

AJS reported that people should make a note of any problems they find during the Christmas power down.

Action: ALL

#### 2.6 Security Report

JHB is in the process of writing a response to GDMR's paper on security.

Action: JHB

## 2.7 Management (Carried Forward)

MIKEF wants JTB to take her paper further and this will take up a large proportion of her time. At present GORDON has the revised paper and JHB will circulate any information regarding changes to the paper to the syssies.

*circulated*

Action: JHB

## 2.8 Systems Hardware

DWB and GDMR had a look to find out which memory pool was leaking. DWB reported it to Sun Microsystems on Friday and AJS spoke to them on Tuesday. Steve Cummings looked at the sources and worked out what the problem was.

## 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

## 4. Routine Reports

### Admin

Jenny reported that all the entries into QI went relatively smoothly. It took about 1 1/2 days for the CS1 students to be entered. The CS4 entries need a bit of a tidy up, DDR will be doing this. JTB is working on a form for new staff and visitors.

Action: JTB

### Applications and User Environment

**Databases** JTB, PAUL, TLC, DDR and Gordon had a meeting to discuss the possibility of unifying all the course databases. JTB is going to speak to the course organisers and Simon Marzden at M.I.S.

Action: JTB

**Web Report** Paul Bedworth will be approached to install Java properly and GDMR will write a tech-note warning people about security on Java.

Action: GDMR/*vb*

**Secondary Server** JHB and AJS are going to meet to discuss a secondary Web server.

Action: <sup>T</sup>JHB/AJS

### System networking

### Management

### Systems - Hardware

**Teaching  
Research**

*in* PAUL, AJS, JHB, MIKEF and MRJ are going to meet to discuss <sup>CO involvement</sup> ~~software~~  
~~that is needed~~ for research.

Action: PAUL/AJS/JHB/MIKEF/MRJ

**5. Any Other Business**

PAUL and JHB are going to meet to discuss Macintosh Software.

Action: JHB/PAUL

JTB will give a talk on projects at the next Syssies Progress Meeting.

Action: JTB

**6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 2nd November, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

## **Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 18th May 1995**

Present: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, George Ross, Rainer Thonnes, Irene Orr, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).

Apologies: Jo Blishen, Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie.

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

#### **2.1 Front Desk**

IRO has written a draft back-up document. She is waiting on useful feedback.

#### **2.2 Management**

JHB will approach individuals who have not had an appraisal yet and specify dates.

Action: JHB

#### **2.3 Macs**

JHB has received one piece of the X-Windows software, he has been promised another one by next week.

PAUL has produced a list of Macintosh software. JST will mail it around the syssies.

JHB has ordered a scanner for the new Multi-Media Macintosh.

#### **2.4 Front Desk**

JENNY has been looking for a new tape rack and she has found a couple that look hopeful.

#### **2.5 Package Accounts Management**

JHB has still to nominate someone as "Package Manager"

Action: JHB

#### **2.6 PH/QI; WWW**

Action on JTB to report the findings of the meeting held between RS, DDR, IRO, TLC, JENNY and CC (discussing the entering of new students and staff on to QI).

### **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

#### **4. Routine Reports**

**Macs:** JHB reported that he is looking into the possibility of buying a 17" screen. JST reported that the departmental macs are in the process of being moved onto the new wire.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** JHB announced he was planning to take on additional commitments with a view to reducing the amount of time he spent actively being service manager. This was a deliberate tactic to force decisions to be made elsewhere in line with current departmental thinking on devolved management.

CC had been identified as the CO to look after the as-yet unspecified Computer Literacy 1 Course.

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** Nothing to report.

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** JHB is hoping to begin the process of appointing a new CSO quite soon.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** DWB reported that a new version of PP is being installed. He is hoping to have everyone switched onto this by next week.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** Nothing to report.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** JENNY will be assisting DWB with a view of gaining knowledge of Solaris 2.4.

**5. Any Other Business**

**6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 1st June, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:30pm.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 1st June

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. Matters Arising

3. Chairman's Business

4. Routine Reports:

|   |                             |                |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| → | Macs                        | (paul)         |
| → | PCs                         | (ajs)          |
|   | Comms                       | (ajs)          |
|   | User Environment            | (cc)           |
| → | Management                  | (jhb)          |
|   | Housekeeping                | (rwt)          |
|   | Information Dissemination   | (cc)           |
|   | Security                    | (gdmr)         |
| → | Latex/TeX/Fonts             | (jtb/gdmr)     |
|   | Packages                    | (iro/all)      |
|   | Front Desk                  | (iro/jenny)    |
|   | GUIs                        | (gdmr)         |
|   | Printers                    | (jst)          |
|   | ML                          | (jst)          |
|   | Internet Services (not WWW) | (morna/dwb)    |
| → | PH/Qi; WWW                  | (jtb/rs/dwb)   |
|   | Databases                   | (rs)           |
|   | Research Systems (LFCS)     | (morna)        |
|   | Research Systems (Non-LFCS) | (rwt)          |
|   | Teaching Systems            | (dwb/ajs/arch) |
|   | Reality                     | (ajs)          |
| → | Planning                    | (ajs)          |
| → | Solaris 2.4                 | (dwb)          |

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 PCs: Identification of work required (ajs)

5.2 Macs: Discussion of software requirements (paul)

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting



**Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting**  
**Thursday, ~~18th~~ May 1995**

(June)

**Present:** Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr, Jo Blishen, Morna Findlay, Archie Howitt Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Rainer Thonnes

**1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

**2. Matters Arising**

**2.1 Management**

JHB reported that the appraisals are on going and the new management changes will pick this up

**2.2 Package Accounts Management**

Jo has been nominated the new package manager and she will pass this on to JENNY.

**2.3 Macs**

JHB has purchased a new Macintosh which will be tried out as a secretarial machine, one of the secretaries would be approached to act.

**3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

**4. Routine Reports**

**Macs:** Discussion of Mac support deferred until the next Syssies Progress Meeting.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** DWB and MORNA are rebuilding the mail host and they hope to use this for all outbound mail.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** JHB reported that he is hoping to appoint a new Computing Support Officer before the start of term. The funding for this will come through on the 1st August 1995. Action on JHB to produce a time-table for arranging interviews.

Action: JHB

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** DA's funding is finished and IRO will be taking on latex full-time. JTB and PAUL are to help IRO get to grips with latex when ever possible. IRO reported that she needed a new disk. Action on JHB to find a new disk for IRO.

Action: JHB

**Packages:** JHB has ordered 2 4Gb disks, one will be put onto the graphics machine for package accounts and another one will be freed up for JTB.

**Front Desk:** Nothing to report.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):**

**PH/Qi; WWW:** DDR is producing a new form. TLC will try this out and then turn it into a paper form. This form will be entered by the secretaries and it will then send mail to support asking for an account to be set up. Work has still to be done for group entry (e.g. CS1 students).

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** The next meeting of the Planning Group was scheduled for Friday 10th at which point the Syssies proposals would be considered and if approved passed on to HOD.

**Solaris 2.4:** DWB will mail a summary of the 2.4 work to all Syssies.

**5. Any Other Business**

**5.1 PCs: Identification of work required:** An additional paper is enclosed by AJS.

**6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 15th June, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:10pm.

# Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting

## Thursday, 15th June 1995

Present: John Butler, Jo Blishen, Alastair Scobie, Rosemary Soutar, Chris Cooke, David Baines, Jenny Smith, George Ross, Archie Howitt, Rainer Thonnes, Doug Rogers, Irene Orr, Eleanor Kerse (stand-in Secretary).

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, apart from noting the error in the date of the meeting.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 Management

JHB reported that we have finally obtained permission to appoint a new Computing Support Officer, but it is still too early to produce an interview timetable since the post has yet to be advertised. This is in hand, and we hope to appoint by August/September.

#### 2.2 LaTeX/TeX/Fonts:

JHB reported that the disk for IRO had been obtained.

### 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

### 4. Routine Reports

**Macs:** Nothing to report.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** The mail host has been rebuilt by DWB and MORNA, and is back in use for a limited set of machines once again. The 2 4Gb disks have arrived, and a home is being sought for the second one which requires an interface. Evaluation of a potential secretarial/administrative Mac is underway, and JHB will proceed with its purchase as soon as it has been identified. AJS and DWB have moved the YP server to Rathlin, and reported that no new memory requires to be purchased.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Concern was raised by AJS with regard to activity management in the new Departmental management structure. Action on JHB to obtain clarification on this, and to explore the possibility of a meeting with MIKEF where some of these questions can be addressed directly.

Action: JHB

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** GDMR reported that his document is three-quarters written, but he has a specification which should tide us over meantime.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** JTB reported that development of LaTeX has slowed down, but we should still keep an eye on it.

**Packages:** See item 5. below.

**Front Desk:** IRO is still carrying out back-ups, and it was noted that some machines are not running AMANDA as yet. Action on JHB to attempt to restore some files. He will also encourage JENNY to keep pursuing Orion with regard to purchase of a tape rack. JHB informed the meeting that we are being threatened with auditors in an attempt by the University to tighten up the fraud prevention procedure.

Action: JHB

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers:** Nothing to report.

**ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Nothing to report.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** DDR reported that the log-in mechanism is almost in place now.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** AJS reported that RWT will join the Reality team.

**Planning:** A meeting had taken place on 10 May when a series of proposals had

been tabled, and were subsequently discussed at the Departmental meeting where it was agreed that a decision should be made re this expenditure by Friday 16 June. Requests had been received by individual members of staff, but the other issue involving judgement on the academic content was deferred to a meeting or group to be set up by MIKEF. JHB reported that in his opinion this is a less than satisfactory result, and a reflection on the current uncertainty in Departmental management procedures.

**Solaris 2.4:** DWB reported on progress here. The plan is to start moving teaching servers to 2.4 once again, and continue with patching etc. He has a list of the things now operational, and expects further progress in the next week or so.

## **5. Any Other Business**

**5.1 JTB's paper:** the paper concerning a suggestion for new package categories was discussed at length, and JTB expressed her dislike of the 2-category system. She will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail people to explain the new system of gradings, High, Standard and Unsupported.

Action: JTB/DDR

At this point in the meeting, spring-cleaning of user groups/group IDs was discussed. It was agreed that we should remove unnecessary distinctions between CS and LFCS since they were not contributing anything, and creating problems for people like JENNY to handle. AJS will speak to GLC in this connection.

Action: AJS

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 29th June, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at noon.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 15th June

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

- Macs ○ (paul)
- PCs (ajs)
- DNS.* → Comms (ajs)
- User Environment (cc)
- Management (jhb)
- Housekeeping (rwt)
- Information Dissemination (cc)
- Security (gdmr)
- Latex/TeX/Fonts ○ (jtb/gdmr)
- Packages ○ (iro/all)
- Front Desk (iro/jenny)
- GUIs (gdmr)
- Printers ○ (jst)
- ML ○ (jst)
- Internet Services (not WWW) (morna/dwb)
- PH/Qi; WWW (jtb/rs/dwb)
- Databases (rs)
- Research Systems (LFCS) (morna)
- rs* ○ Research Systems (Non-LFCS) (rwt)
- Teaching Systems (dwb/ajs/arch)
- Reality (ajs)
- Planning ○ (ajs)
- Solaris 2.4 ○ (dwb)

5. Items for Discussion

JTB's Paper.

6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

## **Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 20th July 1995**

Present: Doug Rogers, David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, John Butler, Archie Howitt.

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The following Changes from EAKs minutes of the 15th June meeting are to be made:

The mail host being rebuilt by DWB & MORNA should of been under the section "Internet Services" not "Comms".

The evaluation of a potential secretarial macintosh should of been under the section "Macs" not "Comms".

It was stated that AJS and DWB had moved the YP server to Rathlin under the section "Comms" - it should of read 'AJS and DWB are planning to move the YP master service to Rathlin'.

There were no recorded minutes from the meeting on the 29th June.

### **2. Matters Arising**

#### **2.1 Management**

The panel for interviewing for a new CSO will probably include LMM, MIKEF, AJS and JENNY (provided she is back from her holidays). A copy of the job description is on the World Wide Web.

JTB has spoken to MIKEF about the possibility of arranging a meeting to discuss the effects of the new management changes. MIKEF has agreed to a meeting in the near future.

#### **2.2 JTB's Paper**

JTB will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail peoples to explain the new system of gradings, High, Standard and Unsupported. This action was deferred until the next meeting as JTB is still waiting on input from JENNY.

Action: JTB/JENNY

Re: Spring cleaning of UIDs/GIDs - JTB to lead discussion on the effects of the decision to flatten the structure. AJS and JHB to find someone to implement.



Action: AJS/JHB

### 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

### 4. Routine Reports

**Macs:** PAUL reported that Arkle has now been moved to the machine halls. One of the new secretarial/administrative Macs has arrived and PAUL is in the process of making sure everything on it is working OK.

PAUL reported that there was no clear ruling as to who was in charge of Macintosh support. This was deferred to JHB.

Action: JHB

MORNA reported that she has an LC2 Macintosh at the moment that needs more memory. The intention is that she will receive a 475 from GLC but she is unsure as to whether there will be a need to buy another Ether Card. AJS reported that it would probably be a good idea to purchase another Ether Card anyway. Action on AJS to purchase another Ether Card.

Action: AJS

JST and PAUL are going to find out about the performance of CAP - they will try and get the zones rearranged within the next couple of weeks.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Nothing to report.

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** CC reported that the second issue of the Syssies newsletter should be ready by the end of August and he is polling for contributions.

Action: ALL

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** MIKEF has approached MORNA about producing a plan.

MORNA reported that she is in desperate need of LaTeX manuals. AJS will supply.

Action: AJS

**Packages:** The latest version of Xemacs is very buggy and it's unlikely that a new

version will be implemented before the start of term.

It was reported that double the amount of disk space is going to be needed as the old version will need to remain on line as well as the new version for some time.

**Front Desk:** Nothing to report.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Paul Murphy is in the process of doing a mail user survey. MORNA will report the findings of this.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** Nothing to report.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** DWB reported that he has now moved some of the teaching servers over to Solaris 2.4 and everything seems to be going OK.

PAUL and MORNA have to discuss when the Lab machines should be moved over.

Action: PAUL/MORNA

## 5. Any Other Business

## 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 3rd August, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:50

## **Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting**

### **Thursday, 3rd August 1995**

Present: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Paul Anderson, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Mike Fourman, Alastair Scobie (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).

Apologies: Irene Orr, Morna Findlay, John Butler, Archie Howitt

#### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was reported under packages that "double the amount of disk space was going to be needed as the old version will need to remain on line as well as the new version for some time", this should of been under the heading Latex/TeX/Fonts.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

##### **2.1 Management**

The interviews for a new CSO will take place next week (the week of the 14th August). The panel will include JHB, GORDON and AJS.

##### **2.2 JTB's Paper**

The following action on JTB and JENNY has been postponed until the next progress meeting:

"JTB will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail people to explain the new system of gradings, High, Standard and Unsupported. "

Action: JTB/JENNY

Re: Spring cleaning of UIDs/GIDS - this will be solved in solaris 2.5 next year.

##### **2.3 Macs**

Action on JHB to decide how many more macs need upgraded and how many ether cards need to be bought.

Action: JHB

##### **2.4 Solaris 2.4**

PAUL and MORNA have to discuss when the Lab machines should be moved over.

Action: PAUL/MORNA

#### **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

#### 4. Routine Reports

**Macs:** PAUL reported that AJR has her new secretarial macintosh and most things seem to be working OK. There appears to be some problems with accessing shared accounts but JST will take a look at it. MORNA and JTB are going to look at the problems with latex on the machine. It was suggested that perhaps the new CSO could be responsible for giving secretaries training on the new Macs.

PAUL reported that there needs to be some thought given to the software licensing. AJS reported this affected PCs also

JST is intending to get the first steps of juggling the zones around finished this week.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Roag will be freed shortly to take on the role of external DNS server. YP master will then move onto rathlin.

**CS1:** Action on JTB to talk to RAM about the CS1 environment

Action: JTB

AJS suggested that the external access machine could be loaned to CS1 for the first few weeks of term.

Action: GDMR/DWB/RWT

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Nothing to report.

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** The deadline for submissions for the Syssies Newsletter is the end of the 3rd Week in August.

Action: ALL

**Security:** In one month GDMR will produce a major item on security and present something for discussion.

Action: GDMR

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** There are to be problems with mail merge on Latex. Action on JTB to look at this.

Action: JTB

**Packages:** There are space problems with "src 5". Action on JENNY to look at this.

Action: JENNY

**Front Desk:** Jenny will rearrange the accounts.

Action: JENNY

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** JST and AJS will discuss the new printer. (from SHEFC spend)

Action: JST/AJS

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Do we want to carry on maintaining our own news server or should we go back to using the EUCS news server? The current news host is just managing to keep up with the news volume but there is a 600mb backlog after a maintenance weekend. DWB will evaluate and report back.

Action: DWB

**PH/Qi; WWW:** JTB is currently looking at new web servers as our is unsupported.

Action: JTB

Action on CC to chase up people about updating their tech reports.

Action: CC/ALL

**Databases:** The current version of 4th Dimension doesn't run on powermacs. JHB and RS are going to investigate upgrading the version we have.

Action: JHB/RS

Paul suggested that we should start considering database provision throughout the department. AJS suggested postponing this until November.

Action: RS/JHB/AJS come November

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** There are concerns with the syssies as to what is happening with the new course "CL1". Action on DWB to talk to the teaching committee about what they want for this course.

Action: DWB

**Reality:** This is going to be reinstalled -- properly this time.

Some X work will be required when the new Indys arrive.

Action: GDMR

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** Nothing to report.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 17th August 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

- ✓ 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:
  - Macs (paul)
  - PCs (ajs)
  - Comms (dwb)
  - User Environment/GUIs (cc/gdmr)
  - Management (jhb)
  - Housekeeping (rwt)
  - Information Dissemination (cc)
  - Security (gdmr)
  - Latex/TeX/Fonts (morna/gdmr)
  - Packages (iro/all)
  - Front Desk (iro/jenny)
  - GUIs (gdmr)
  - Printers (jst)
  - ML (jst)
  - Internet Services (not WWW) (morna/dwb)
  - PH/Qi; WWW (jtb/rs/dwb)
  - Databases (rs)
  - Research Systems (LFCS) (morna)
  - Research Systems (Non-LFCS) (rwt)
  - Teaching Systems (dwb/ajs/arch)
  - Reality SGI (ajs)
  - Planning (ajs)
  - Solaris 2.4 (dwb)
  - CC
5. Items for Discussion
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

## **Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 17th August 1995**

Present: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, Archie Howitt,  
David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Jo Blishen,  
Rainer Thonnes, Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson,  
Alastair Scobie, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Irene Orr

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

#### **2.1 Management**

The interviews for the new CSO will take place on Tuesday 29th August. The panel will include JHB, MIKEF, AJS and Keith Farvis.

#### **2.2 JTB's Paper (Carried Forward)**

"JTB will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail people to explain the new system of gradings, High, Standard and Unsupported".

Action: JTB/JENNY

#### **2.3 Solaris 2.4**

PAUL and MORNA have to discuss when the Lab machines should be moved over to 2.4.

Action: PAUL/MORNA

#### **2.4 Comms**

JTB spoke to RAM about the CS1 environment and he is happy with the way things are at the moment, he doesn't feel it's necessary to change anything.

#### **2.5 Security**

In 2 weeks GDMR will produce a major item on security and present something for discussion.

Action: GDMR

#### **2.6 Internet Services (not WWW): (carried forward)**

Do we want to carry on maintaining our own new server or should we go back to using the EUCS news server? The current news host is just managing to keep up with the news volume but there is a 600mb backlog after a maintenance weekend. DWB will evaluate and report back.

Action: DWB

#### **2.7 PH/Qi; WWW**

Action on JTB and CC to write a style-file for tech reports.

Action: JTB/CC

## 2.8 Databases

*Paul suggested that we should start considering database provision throughout the department. AJS suggested postponing this until November.*

*Action: RS/JHB/AJS come November*

## 2.9 Teaching Systems

There are concerns with the syssies as to what is happening with the new course "CL1". Action on DWB to talk to the teaching committee about what they want for this course.

Action: DWB

## 2.10 Any other Business

Action on JTB and AJS to rationalise the list of routine reports.

Action: JTB/AJS

## 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

## 4. Routine Reports

**Macs:** PAUL reported that both TLC and AJS were happy with their new Macs and that their suns can be removed from their offices. It was proposed that the new secretary and LMM should get a new Mac (LMM might have to wait a little while for hers). The problems that have arisen so far are:

- I. Access to unix file systems are too slow using CAP (JST is looking at this at the moment)
- II Maintenance of the two machines is needed and has not been arranged yet.
- III Software licencing Issues have to be resolved and private copies withdrawn.
- IV Training should be given.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** AJS reported that he now has 2 x 28,800 modems that have to be put on the annex - which will create disruption to other systems. A date near 10th September was suggested.



**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** JHB has to write a response to JTB's paper and then have a meeting to discuss it.

Action: JHB

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** Nothing to report.

**Packages:** MORNA reported that there is a serious lack of disc space because we are having to run the old and the new versions of Latex. JTB reported that she has already had a look at it and tried to tidy it up but it's as tight as it can be. DWB and RWT are going to have a look at this and report back.

Action: DWB/RWT

**Front Desk:** JENNY reported that we would need to buy some new Entacards. JHB referred this to JCD.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Nothing to report.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** JTB reported that she is in the process of looking at the new servers.

**Databases:** RS reported that Oracle needs to be upgraded to run on 2.4 - the latest version is on order but it may take a couple of weeks to arrive.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** Nothing to report.

**Solaris 2.4:** DWB reported that there are some problems with the new disks - they had to be sent back to Access Computing for an upgrade.

**5. Any Other Business**

**6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 31st August, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 31st August 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Macs                        | (paul)         |
| PCs                         | (ajs)          |
| Comms                       | (dwb)          |
| User Environment/GUIs       | (cc/gdmr)      |
| Management                  | (jhb)          |
| Housekeeping                | (rwt)          |
| Information Dissemination   | (cc)           |
| Security                    | (gdmr)         |
| Latex/TeX/Fonts             | (morna/gdmr)   |
| Packages                    | (iro/all)      |
| Front Desk                  | (iro/jenny)    |
| GUIs                        | (gdmr)         |
| Printers                    | (jst)          |
| ML                          | (jst)          |
| Internet Services (not WWW) | (morna/dwb)    |
| PH/Qi; WWW                  | (jtb/rs/dwb)   |
| Databases                   | (rs)           |
| Research Systems (LFCS)     | (morna)        |
| Research Systems (Non-LFCS) | (rwt)          |
| Teaching Systems            | (dwb/ajs/arch) |
| Reality                     | (ajs)          |
| Planning                    | (ajs)          |
| Solaris 2.4                 | (dwb)          |

5. Items for Discussion

6. Any Other Business

*Donation ML*

7. Date of Next Meeting

# Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting

## Thursday, 31st August 1995

Present: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith,  
David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr,  
Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Archie Howitt, Paul Anderson,  
Alastair Scobie, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).

Apologies: Morna Findlay

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 Management

A new CSO has been appointed and she will start on Friday 1st September.

#### 2.2 JTB's Paper (Carried Forward)

"JTB will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail people to explain the new system of gradings, High, Standard and Unsupported".

Action: JTB/JENNY

#### 2.3 Solaris 2.4

PAUL and MORNA are in the process of moving the Lab machines over to 2.4.

#### 2.4 Internet Services (not WWW): (Carried Forward)

Do we want to carry on maintaining our own news server or should we go back to using the EUCS news server? The current news host is just managing to keep up with the news volume but there is a 600mb backlog after a maintenance weekend. DWB will evaluate and report back.

Action: DWB

#### 2.5 PH/QI; WWW

Action on JTB and CC to write a style-file for tech reports. The target is the 1st of October.

Action: JTB/CC

#### 2.6 Teaching Systems

CC reported that he is waiting on the CL1 team to decide what software is needed for the start of term. JTB thought that a plan was needed of what's expected by CC.

## **2.7 Any other business**

JTB and AJS have produced a new list of routine reports.

## **2.8 Management**

JTB and JHB will meet to discuss JTB's paper before JHB writes his response. It was suggested that MIKEF should be present at the meeting when JHB reports back.

Action: JTB/JHB

## **2.9 Packages**

DWB reported that the problem with disk space has been partially resolved but there is still some tidying up needed.

Action: DWB

## **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

## **4. Routine Reports**

**Macs:** Nothing to report.

**PCs:** Nothing to report.

**Comms:** Nothing to report.

**User Environment:** Nothing to report.

**Management:** Nothing to report.

**Housekeeping:** Nothing to report.

**Information Dissemination:** Nothing to report.

**Security:** Nothing to report.

**Latex/TeX/Fonts:** Nothing to report.

**Packages:** Nothing to report.

**Front Desk:** Nothing to report.

**GUIs:** Nothing to report.

**Printers: ML:** Nothing to report.

**Internet Services (not WWW):** Nothing to report.

**PH/Qi; WWW:** Nothing to report.

**Databases:** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Research Systems (Non-LFCS):** Nothing to report.

**Teaching Systems:** Nothing to report.

**Reality:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** AJS suggested that there should be some restructuring. Any comments should be passed to JHB.

**Solaris 2.4:** Paul reported that MORNA was very unhappy about the installation of Solaris 2.4 as it was causing her major problems. DWB will speak to Morna to discuss the problems that she has been having.

Action: DWB/MORNA

## 5. Any Other Business

GDMR presented his paper on Security. The following points were noted by JHB:

GDMR distinguished internal and external attacks on the system. It was a problem that all COs had to be made aware of but to plug all possible avenues of internal attack would require sufficient disruption and change in the way we do this to require Policy decisions.

There were, however, a number of things that could be tightened up: physical access, NFS, the extensive availability of package accounts and password-ed NSU. Kerberos is still a very interesting possibility but has the drawback of containing a single point of failure. In short, a lot was possible but a lot of possibilities required Policy decisions as the first stage.

## 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 14th September, 11:00am Room 3422.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.30

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 14th September

11.00 am Room 2510

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

LaTeX Report (MORNA)  
Mail Report (MORNA)  
Course Databases (JTB)  
ML Report (JST)

**System networking** (MORNA)

**Managment** (JHB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

Macs (PAUL)  
Staff Machines (RWT)  
Solaris 2.4 (DWB)  
LFCS Machines (MORNA)

**Teaching** (AJS)

**Research** (???)

5. Items for Discussion
- 5.1 Disk space on departmental machines for latex (MORNA)
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 14th September 1995

Present: Doug Rogers, Jenny Smith, David Baines, Chris Cooke,  
Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen,  
Morna Findlay, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie, Lindsey  
Brown, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Archie Howitt

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 JTB's Paper

JTB will go through all the packages, come up with something and mail people to explain the new system of grading, High, Standard and Unsupported.

#### 2.2 Internet Services (not WWW)

DWB is in the process of evaluating whether or not we should continue using our own news server or whether we should go back to using the EUCS news server.

#### 2.3 PH/QI; WWW

*Action on JTB and CC to write a style-file for tech reports. The target for this is the 1st of October.*

*Action: JTB/CC*

#### 2.4 Management

JTB has been approached by MIKEF to take her project planning paper further than just the syssies.

#### 2.5 Packages

GDMR will look at the problem of disk space and report back at the next Progress meeting.

*Action: GDMR*

#### 2.6 Solaris 2.4 (Carried forward)

Paul reported that MORNA was very unhappy about the installation of Solaris 2.4 as it was causing her major problems. DWB will speak to MORNA to discuss the problems that she has been having.

*Action: DWB/MORNA*



### **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

### **4. Routine Reports**

#### **Admin**

AJS reported that he was having problems with Amanda. IRO said that she would make it give warnings instead of failing under certain startup conditions.

Action: IRO

#### **Applications and User Environment**

##### **Latex Report**

MORNA reported that she is needing some assistance with her work as she is over-committed. JENNY and LMB offered to reboot Staffa, the LFCS client Server. RWT and IRO are going to discuss reinstalling Papa and Craro and DWB is going to assist MORNA with the move on mail.

Action: JENNY/LMB/RWT/IRO

##### **Mail Report**

There are ongoing problems with the POP mail server. It still needs to be identified who is responsible to fix it. Action must be taken.

Action: JHB

##### **Course Databases**

PAUL reported that he is going to take a look at what databases secretaries are using and see what sort of unification can be achieved. JTB is going to discuss unifying the undergraduate courses with the course organisers. At present each course is using different software, as are the secretaries. DDR is working on a new form for the registration of new students and staff. The idea is that when the paper form has been filled out, the secretaries can then enter it, using pearl script and it will automatically update QI. Any suggestions or feedback should be sent to DDR.

Action: PAUL/JTB

##### **ML Report**

JST reported that ML is very like emacs, in the sense that it has lots of different versions and everyone seems to have a different one! JST has to

discuss with SOA (Conveyor of the Teaching Committee) to find out which versions of ML he needs and also to talk to MRJ (Conveyor of the Research Committee) to find out which version of ML he would be needing.

Action: JST

### System networking

MORNA suggested that the syssies compile a list of problems that they found after the power-down last Sunday so that there isn't a repetition in December. This list should be given to AJS.

Action: AJS

### Management

JHB reported that LMB will be keeping a one page summary of equipment serial numbers with the order forms.

### Systems - Hardware

#### **Macs**

PAUL reported that TLC, AJR and WJO's new macs seem to be working fine. The software for secretaries machines haven't been decided yet but JHB has a list. A folder called ~dept has been set-up for access to the departmental files. PAUL volunteered to give secretaries some training on their new machines. CC has taken over support for these machines. At present, the machines are being installed manually.

Action: PAUL

#### **Staff Machines**

RWT reported that the 2 client servers on Coll are up and running. The rest will be moved across to 2.4 once Haystack has been moved to Coll, he will then start working on Islay.

Action: RWT

#### **Solaris 2.4**

DWB reported that there should be a meeting to discuss the installation problems with Solaris 2.4. A list of actions for syssies was created for outstanding problems and this should be mailed to TLC.

Action: DWB

### Teaching

Nothing to report.

### **Research**

Nothing to report.

## **5. Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Disk space on departmental machines for Latex**

MORNA reported that GDMR had split up LaTeX and TeX into 5 different packages to save disk space but MORNA feels that this is a very confusing way to do things. MORNA proposes that LaTeX and TeX should be put back together even though more disk space will then be needed. Action on JHB and JTB to take this further.

Action: JHB/JTB

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 28th September, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15

# A Project Planning Proposal

Dept. of Computer Science

October 4, 1995

## 1 Background

Following the discussions about management structures earlier this year, the Departmental meeting in June agreed that there should be a shift towards an activity (or project) based approach. The principle has been agreed, but what does it mean in practical terms? A lot more work is required to find suitable mechanisms to achieve this and there has been a lack of resources to do this until recently.

In July the syssies group (computing officers and computing support officers) discussed adopting a more project-based approach in their work (implementing the service they provide through projects). A paper outlining some detailed proposals for a syssies' project planning framework was discussed by the syssies, HoD, the service manager and the infrastructure coordinator (and others ...), and the syssies have decided to implement these proposals (which are described below.)

The Departmental meeting has agreed the shift towards a project based approach, but there are no practical proposals yet. The syssies have a project framework that they would like to try. The proposal made here is for the syssies to pilot the project planning framework which can then be extended beyond purely system projects. This evolution of the framework will involve wide consultation and discussion with members of the Department.

### Why we want projects.

Projects will provide a transparent mechanism for prioritising and monitoring our activities:

- The scope of projects will be documented.
- The resources allocated to projects will be visible.
- We can monitor progress.
- We can introduce new areas as projects and get them activated.

## 2 How will it work?

What follows applies to systems projects. These are the detailed proposals that the syssies have discussed and they now need to be extended and modified to suit other types of projects.

Projects must first be identified: projects can be proposed in various ways just as they are now — suggested by individuals outside syssies or identified by syssies themselves. Suggestions for projects will be collated by a small group convened by the infrastructure coordinator.

Once a given project has enough credibility, a *plan* must be created. A plan has two sections: a synopsis and the full plan. The synopsis gives a brief definition of the scope of the project (deliverables), time estimates for deliverables and describes the commitment to long term maintenance. The full plan describes all parts of the project, including resourcing, and gives estimates for intermediate milestones.

Plans are created via a *project group* (a different group for each project). The project group would typically have about 4 members and their role is to discuss and agree the full plan above. Each group should have a convenor who is responsible for drafting and producing the plan. For example, the project group for a first or second year course would consist of the course organiser, the lecturers involved in teaching the course and one or more syssies. Each group can choose who will be the convenor — this is not a senior or management figure, just the person most likely to get the plan written.

The projects are then prioritised. The synopses are discussed by a *Project Approval Meeting* of the Planning and Resources Committee which produces a list of approved projects with a priority ordering. Certain projects can also be approved without prioritising (sent back to syssies for prioritising internally) or certain projects declared unworthy. The Project Approval Meeting (PAM) needs to happen at least 4 times a year and also at other times as necessary. The PAM is a mechanism for providing the authority to implement a project according to its plan and it relies on the small project groups to get the plans right (subject to some iteration, of course).

Next comes resource allocation and scheduling. A small resource allocation group will be formed to advise HoD on this.

Finally (and most importantly) progress of projects needs to be tracked. This could be done by having a small number of *trackers* who keep in touch with the progress of a number of projects by talking to those assigned to them. A tracker is *not* the manager — the tracker just helps with monitoring progress of the project.

A tracker has responsibility to report problems back to the relevant person: resourcing problems back to the resource allocation group; slippage in deliverables to the appropriate project group; personnel problems back to the manager (who might report serious problems to the planning or personnel group).

Resource problems may result in a new plan being submitted to the PAM to bid for more resources if the original plan underestimated them. The tracker should involve the original small project group in this evolutionary design process. The tracker should also be involved in the planning stage of the projects that they are tracking because the expertise they develop will help them to spot project plans doomed to failure.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 5th October 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Mac Backups            | (CC)      |
| Packages Organisation  | (JTB)     |
| New Registration Forms | (DDR/JTB) |
| Package Space          | (GDMR)    |
| Technote Style File    | (JTB/CC)  |
| Backups                | (IRO)     |

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Emacs Report    | (CC)    |
| Mail Report     | (MORNA) |
| LaTeX Report    | (MORNA) |
| Security Report | (GDMR)  |

**System networking** (MORNA)

**Managment** (JHB)

Project Planning Status Report (JTB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

**Teaching** (AJS)

**Research** (???)

5. Items for Discussion
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

## **Actions from the Solaris 2.4 Meeting**

Creation of a "System tuning guide for sysadmins"

Action: dwb

Automatic generation of the 2.4 usr.local template.

Action: ajs - completed

Patch object to check that list of applied patches is appropriate for the given OS version.

Action: dwb

Patch object should not fail if a single patch installation fails.

Action: dwb - done as an option for the patch object

Merger of the YP-01, YP-02 and PERMS patches.

Action: gdmr

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 19th October 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

Course Databases

Web report: Hot Java and a secondary server

LaTeX: Tech reports and newsletter; latex2html

→ **System networking** (MORNA)

**Managment** (JHB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

**Teaching** (AJS)

**Research** (???)

5. Items for Discussion
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting



## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 5th October 1995

Present: Doug Rogers, Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith,  
David Baines, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr,  
Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Morna Findlay, Archie Howitt  
Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie, Lindsey Brown.  
John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).

Apologies:

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

In the section Solaris 2.4 it should of read DWB reported that there had been a meeting to discuss the installation problems with Solaris 2.4.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 PH/QI; WWW

*Action on JTB and CC to write a style-file for tech reports. This is in progress.*

Action: JTB/CC

#### 2.2 Solaris 2.4 (Carried forward)

Paul reported that MORNA was very unhappy about the installation of Solaris 2.4 as it was causing her major problems. DWB will speak to MORNA to discuss the problems that have arisen.

Action: DWB/MORNA

#### 2.3 Admin (Carried forward)

AJS reported that he was having problems with Amanda. IRO said that she would make it give warnings instead of failing under certain startup condition.

Action: IRO

#### 2.4 Mail Report

It was decided that CC would be responsible for fixing the POP mail server

#### 2.5 Course Databases (Carried forward)

PAUL reported that he is going to take a look at what databases secretaries are using and see what sort of unification can be achieved. JTB is going to discuss unifying the undergraduate courses with the course organisers.

Action: PAUL/JTB

#### 2.6 ML Report

JST has had no response from either MRJ or SOA about which version of ML they will be needing. DWB will speak to the Teaching Committee.

Action: DWB

## 2.7 Systems Networking

AJS will mail syssies a copy of the list of problems that people found after the power-down on the 10th September

Action: AJS

## 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

## 4. Routine Reports

### Admin

#### Mac Backups

CC reported that the Macs are now being backed-up with the new Retrospect and everything seems to be working fine but that more licenses need to be bought. Action on CC to quantify and tell JHB how many to order.

Action: CC/JHB

### Applications and User Environment

#### Emacs Report

CC reported that xemacs version 19.13 is working fine so he will delete version 19.12 within the next few days.

Action: CC

#### Mail Report

MORNA reported that she has done the mail changeover, there were a few problems but nothing too serious. Her machine seems to be struggling with the load so JHB suggested that she uses an SS5 temporarily to see if it helps. Action on JHB to order some more memory (64mb).

Action: JHB

#### Security Report

Action on JHB to write a document in response to GDMR's paper on Security.

Action: JHB

### System networking

### Management

JHB reported that JTB is now working full time. MIKEF wants her to take her paper further and this will take up a large proportion of her time. At

present GORDON has the revised paper and JHB will circulate any information regarding changes to the paper to the syssies. JHB suggested that the department writes a report about what will be happening in the spring to help identify what the needs will be.

Action: JTB/JHB

### **Systems - Hardware**

DWB, AJS, RWT, MORNA, and GDMR are going to have a look at the problems i.e. machines hanging and have a meeting to discuss what can be done.

Action: DWB/AJS/RWT/MORNA/GDMR

### **Teaching**

### **Research**

## **5. Any Other Business**

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 19th October, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.15pm.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

LaTeX (morna)  
Databases: Oracle (rs)  
Security (gdmr)

Plus a major item: Project planning

**System networking** (MORNA)

**Managment** (JHB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

Macs: Software purchase & licensing (paul)

**Teaching/Research** (AJS/PAUL)

5. Items for Discussion

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting

Rep

Syssies Newsletter

ML

← EUCS .



# Minutes of the Syssies' Progress Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 1995

Present: Alastair Scobie, Dave Baines, Jenny Smith, Morna Findlay, George Ross, Lindsey Brown, Rosemary Soutar, Paul Anderson, John Butler, Julian Turnbull, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Chris Cooke, and Irene Orr.

Apologies: Doug Rogers, Tracy Combe.

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

The following corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting were noted:

1. The date of the meeting was 19th October, not 18th May!
2. Under "Routine Reports: Teaching/Research", the minute should have read "Paul, AJS, JHB, MikeF, and MRJ are going to meet to discuss how COs can contribute to research."

## Matters Arising

### Admin

A LaTeX style file for departmental newsletters has been prepared. A similar file for technotes will follow.

JTB reported that a (paper) form had been prepared on which QI details for new staff and visitors could be recorded.

**Amanda** IRO reported that the problem with Amanda had been fixed. AJS asked about another problem, namely that some diagnostic messages did not conform to the syntax expected by the object manager. He agreed to furnish IRO with details.

Action: AJS

### Applications and User Environment

**Databases** The task of unifying all the course databases needs to be fed into the project planning process.

Action: JTB.

**Web Report** JTB and GDMR to decide on a policy regarding installation of HotJava.

Action: JTB, GDMR

**Secondary Web Server** Gruna is available for use as a secondary WWW server. It needs about half a day's effort to configure it.

Action: RS

## **Systems Networking**

**Christmas Powerdown** No action possible yet—carried forward.

**Security Report** Carried forward.

## **Management**

GORDON has presented a paper to the Planning and Resources Group. JHB will arrange for a copy to be circulated to syssies.

Action: JHB.

## **Teaching/Research**

**CO contribution to research** Carried forward.

## **AOCB**

**Macintosh software** By way of clarification, it was explained that the aim is to do an audit of software holding against actual usage and requirements. The output should be a list for JHB showing what needs to be bought, and a method for maintaining an accurate record of software in use. In due course this should be extended to PCs as well as Macs. LMB, CC, AJS, and Paul to discuss this.

Action: LMB.

## **Chairman's Business**

None.

## **Routine Reports**

### **Admin**

**Syssies' minutes** Morna asked if the syssies' minutes could be made available on-line (for use by the syssies themselves). It may be that we are now obliged to make the minutes public anyway.

Action: IRO, Paul.

## **Applications and User Environment**

**LaTeX** JTB and Morna have already met, and a further meeting including JST is now necessary to discuss priorities. If the CS4 and MSc students are to use LaTeX 2e, they are likely to begin doing so after the systems lecture on LaTeX on 29th November. A decision will have to be taken before the date of that lecture on whether LaTeX 2e is now robust enough to be recommended over "old" LaTeX.

Action: Morna, JTB, JST.

**Oracle** A new release of Oracle has been installed on Havra for teaching use.

**Security** A trial Kerberos server is now running. Paul is preparing information on Mac-specific security issues.

**Syssies' newsletter** CC announced 20th November as the copy deadline for the next Newsletter. Java, the LISA conference, and the recent mail changeover were suggested as possible topics.

Action: all.

**ML** JST confirmed that no further replies had been received regarding teaching and research requirements for ML, though the information already received was useful. He intends to proceed on the assumption that those who have not responded require no more than was provided in session 94-95. It was recommended that he try to elicit a response from MRJ on research needs for ML.

Action: JST.

## **Systems Networking**

**POP** Two versions of the POP server have been in use recently. One (the Berkeley version) had been running until the mail machine moved to Solaris 2. The other (the Washington version) had some initial problems, but these had been ironed out. The Washington version is the one in current use.

The Washington version also supports the IMAP protocol. However, it does not support extensions to POP which allow it to be used for sending as well as reading mail. The Berkeley version does support these extensions. This has security advantages. Paul has therefore ported the Berkeley version to Solaris 2, and has also added Kerberos support. A test version is running at present.

Since a substantial number of users rely on POP to read mail, it would be advantageous to have more than one POP server available, avoiding a single point of failure.

Action: CC, Paul.

**WWW** It was noted that the current set of Web browsers cannot handle the PDF format of Adobe Acrobat, though the next release of Netscape (due December 1995) is reported to do so. It was agreed to add an Acrobat reader to the list of external readers for Netscape and Mosaic.

Action: CC.

## **Systems - Hardware**

**Tardis** JHB reported that there had been some problems arising in the Tardis community, partly due to the publishing of unauthorised Web pages, and partly due to the acceptance of users with no claim on the

University. As a result, an official "charter" for Tardis, setting out the responsibilities of those running the service, has now been written.

### **Items for Discussion**

AJS and JTB both had material to present. However, as time was short, it was agreed to hold these over for the "technical" meeting on 9th November.

The meeting closed at 12.01 p.m.



## **Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday 16th November 1995**

Present: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, Jo Blishen,  
David Baines, Rainer Thonnes, Paul Anderson, Lindsey  
Brown, Alastair Scobie (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Chris Cooke, Julian Turnbull, Irene Orr,  
Morna Findlay, Archie Howitt, John Butler.

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The previous minutes had not been circulated due to Julian's absence.

### **2. Matters Arising**

There were none.

### **3. Chairmans Business**

There were none.

### **4. Routine Reports**

#### **Admin**

#### **Applications and User Environment**

Jenny raised the issue of students installing applications. There were mixed feelings about this and it was agreed that this decision should be passed to the Teaching Committee.

#### **System networking**

GDMR reported that MIKEF wanted to increase security with the recent spate of thefts within the University. GDMR will spend half a day writing a project about alarming the machines using SNMP. PAUL will look into the Mac side of things and AJS the PCs.

Action: GDMR/PAUL

PAUL reported that MIKEF wants the students to be able to plug their own machines in to our network. The PC wire was suggested, but further discussion led to a decision to use a separate wire.

#### **Management**

There was a meeting with the Technicians and the Syssies yesterday. It was reported that there is a shortage of scsi cables. AJS reported that MORNA had suggested that all the old equipment should be put up for

auction when we have no further use for it as the junk room is full of unused equipment. There was a suggestion that the junk room be renamed the store room.

## **Systems - Hardware**

AJS asked DWB and GDMR to rediscuss the issues regarding /opt under solaris.

Action: DWB/GDMR

DWB is looking for an SS1 and a 2nd ether interface card. He'd like to set up a test of multi-thread 2.4 server installations before Christmas. RWT suggested haystack and AJS has memory and an ether card.

GDMR reported that he has a disk transplant for Rathlin on order from Access Computing. It should be delivered sometime next week. He warned of the space implications for slaves' /disk/local.

## **Teaching/Research**

PAUL, AJS, JHB, MIKEF and MRJ had a meeting to discuss ways in which COs could further research in the department. AJS will mail syssies copies of the minutes.

Action: AJS

AJS will call a meeting to discuss pushing the idea of a CS4 module in system admin. This has been done before in other Universities and it was successful.

Action: AJS

MIC has been asked to take a course in Software Parallel Computers. The course has to be in place by January and CO support is going to be needed. DWB will speak to MIC to find out what his requirements are going to be.

Action: DWB

## **5. Any Other Business**

**Reminder:** The deadline for the next Syssies Newsletter is the 20th November.

Action: ALL

## **6. Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 30th November, 11.00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.00pm.

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 30th November 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

**System networking** (MORNA)

Sun4c Servers (gdmr)

Rathlin (gdmr)

*Sun4c obsolete.*

**Managment** (JHB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

Records of Macintosh hardware and software (paul)

Macintosh software licenses (paul)

Macintosh security document (paul)

**Teaching/Research** (AJS/PAUL)

5. Items for Discussion

Project Planning (jtb)

6. Any Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting

*50-100  
sessions*

## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 30th November 1995

Present: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, David Baines, Julian Turnbull, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Morna Findlay, Archie Howitt, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie, Lindsey Brown, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Chris Cooke, Irene Orr.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### Admin

**Amanda** AJS has to furnish IRO with details regarding diagnostic messages that do not conform to the syntax expected by the object manager.

Action: AJS

**Syssies' minutes** Morna asked if the syssies' minutes could be made available on-line--carried forward.

Action: IRO, PAUL

#### Applications and User Environment

**Databases** This is in the hands of the Project Steering Group.

#### System Networking

**Security** PAUL is looking at Mac SNMP. AJS has sorted out SNMP for PCs running windows but not yet PCs running NetBSD. He also volunteered to look at SNMP on the SGIs

Action: AJS

**Christmas Powerdown** No action possible yet--carried forward.

**WWW** It was agreed that JTB and RS would take over Netscape while CC is away - in particular to install the latest version as the currently installed version expires in early December.

Action: JTB,RS

#### Management

GORDON has presented a paper to the Planning and Resources Group. JHB will arrange for a copy to be circulated to syssies--carried forward.

Action: JHB

## **Systems Hardware**

**/opt** The issues regarding /opt under solaris needs to be rolled into a 2.5 project. JTB will forward the suggestion that a Solaris 2.5 project be formed to the Project Steering Group.

Action: JTB

## **Teaching/Research**

AJS has mailed syssies copies of the minutes. Action ALL to respond.

Action: ALL

Syssies should mail ideas for a CS4 module in system admin to AJS.  
Action on AJS to call a meeting of interested COs.

Action: ALL

## **3. Chairmans Business**

There was none.

## **4. Routine Reports**

### **Admin**

### **Applications and User Environment**

### **System networking**

**Sun4c Servers/Rathlin** GDMR reported that the new disks for the Rathlin controller have arrived and they don't work on our Sun4c's. GDMR has temporarily borrowed the donation machine (iona) for additional disk space. It was decided that a group be formed to reappraise our summer purchases and advise on whether mid year tuning purchases were necessary. GDMR, AJS (chair), PAUL, MORNA, DWB, and RWT will meet to discuss what is needed and report back before Christmas.

Action: AJS

### **Management**

### **Systems - Hardware**

**Macs** PAUL reported that the Mac software purchases are underway. A record keeping system needs to be implemented to keep track of Macs (their location and configurations). It was suggested that it would be a good idea for the technicians to be able to alter the info fields of the lcfs database. AJS and RWT will look at how we could implement this and PAUL, JST and LMB will meet to discuss what sort of auditing is needed.

Action: AJS,RWT,PAUL,JST,LMB

**Macintosh security document** This is now available.

Teaching

Research

## 5. Any Other Business

**Newsletter** Thanks to CC for producing the newsletter. The deadline for the next one is early February next year.

Action: ALL

**News** There are traffic and disk space problems on the news server as the quantity of incoming news has grown exponentially. It was suggested that we move to the EUCS news server. DWB will write a short report on the pros and cons of doing so.

Action: DWB

## 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 14th December, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.00pm

# Syssies Progress Meeting

Thursday 14th December 1995

11.00 am Room 2509

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chairman's Business
4. Routine Reports:

**Admin** (JENNY)

**Applications and User Environment** (JTB)

Security (jtb)

**System networking** (MORNA)

**Managment** (JHB)

**Systems - Hardware** (DWB)

Patches (gdmr)

Maintenance Weekend (gdmr)

**Teaching/Research** (AJS/PAUL)

5. Items for Discussion
6. Any Other Business
7. Date of Next Meeting

← jtb

## Minutes of the Syssies Progress Meeting Thursday, 14th December 1995

Present: Rosemary Soutar, George Ross, Jenny Smith, Julian  
Turnbull, Irene Orr, Rainer Thonnes, Jo Blishen, Morna  
Findlay, Archie Howitt, Paul Anderson, Alastair Scobie,  
Lindsey Brown, John Butler (Chair), Tracy Combe (Secretary).  
Apologies: Doug Rogers, Chris Cooke, David Baines

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### Admin

**Amanda** AJS will wait until the power down at the weekend to see if he receives any diagnostic messages that do not conform to the syntax expected by the object manager. If this happens he will furnish IRO with details.

**Syssies Minutes** IRO will make the syssies' minutes available on-line.

Action: IRO

#### Systems Hardware

**/opt** JTB will report back about the Solaris 2.5 project after the next Project Steering Group meeting on the 11th January 1996.

Action: JTB

**Macs** LMB is in the process of documenting mac locations and configurations. Lindsey will report back at the next Syssies' meeting.

Action: LMB

**LCFG Clearout** GDMR will instigate a discussion re clearing out obsolete lcfg and hosts entries.

Action: GDMR

**LCFG Editing** PAUL will look at how we can let technicians edit fields in the lcfg database.

Action: PAUL

#### Teaching/Research

Syssies should mail ideas for a CS4 module in system admin to AJS.  
Action on AJS to call a meeting of interested COs.

Action: AJS



## System Networking

**Mid-Year Tuning** The mid-year tuning meeting is scheduled for the 15th of December. Its proposals will be emailed by Christmas.

## AoB

**Newsletter** The deadline for the next syssies' newsletter is early February next year. CC to remind everyone in January.

Action: CC

## 3. Chairmans Business

There was none.

## 4. Routine Reports

## Admin

## Applications and User Environment

**Security** We need to put proposals forward to the department. Action on JHB to respond to PAUL and GDMR's papers.

Action: JHB

## System networking

**POP Mail Server** Pop servers to be installed on all home directory servers. Action on everyone to mail MORNA with names of home directory servers.

Action: ALL/MORNA

## Management

## Systems - Hardware

**Maintenance Weekend** The power in the machine halls will be going down this weekend. AJS will speak to JCD to try to find out what will be happening. Polythene will be put on the racks in the machine halls on Saturday morning. The machines will not be brought up until Monday morning (Paul will assist in bringing up the LFCS machines). Action on everyone to log any faults they find after the power down.

Action: ALL

**Patches** New patch list to be installed before all the servers are rebooted after the power down.

Action: GDMR

## Teaching

## Research

**CS4 Modules** Action on AJS to call a meeting re ideas for a CS4 module in system admin.

Action: AJS

### 5. Any Other Business

### 6. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 11th January 1996, 11:00am Room 2509.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.00pm

## Deferred Actions

**25/1/96** Action on JTB to write a style file for technical reports.

**25/1/96** Action on DWB to report on the traffic and disk space problems on the news server.

**8/2/96** Action on AJS/PAUL to look at SNMP.

**8/2/96** Action on AJS and PAUL to follow up actions raised by "Research" Meeting.