NAOPpag Monthly Meeting Agenda

January 13, 2021

2PM – 3PM ET

Zoom: <https://internet2.zoom.us/j/393114449>

Box Folder:  <https://internet2.box.com/s/bapopc8osyoa6fm1m36cw9h023ebhy7k>

Attendees: Andrew Gallo, Rod Wilson, Scott Valcourt, Jonah Keough, Jim Stewart, Michael Corn, Dan Schmiedt, Tracy Smith, Derek Masseth, Shawn McKee, Dee Childs, Sarah Christen, Bernie Gulachek, James Deaton

Staff Attendees: Rob Vietzke, Linda Roos, Paul Howell, Chris Wilkinson, George Loftus, Mike Simpson, Kathleen Kay

Unable to Attend: Michele Norin

**NOTES**

**Welcome** (James Deaton, NAOPpag chair)

James welcomed Andrew Gallo, new chair of NTAC, to the NAOPpag for the coming year.

**Discussion Topics**:

1. Network support for science projects/support for research (Shawn McKee & Scott Valcourt)

*During the December 2020 meeting we discussed possible 2021 topics and decided to start 2021 with additional discussion regarding the Network support for science projects/support for research topic. The original topic paper is attached and found here:*[*https://docs.google.com/document/d/13thkh-UDM8a9U3CrlbPcL7hqAOQT6Xkk7j3tu8maP5Y/edit?usp=sharing*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13thkh-UDM8a9U3CrlbPcL7hqAOQT6Xkk7j3tu8maP5Y/edit?usp=sharing)

Rob shared a Google Doc on the Network Support for Research topic. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O5etwIdl8Hf49kJdl6njBaCJyh_5cV47uruWgwqy6QA/edit?usp=sharing>

There was a suggestion made to highlight what we already do.

Shawn McKee suggested that the network is foundational to what is happening on the campuses. There are concerns about funding and resources: Is Internet2 competing with its membership for resources or not using funding effectively? Consensus was that Internet2 services, interacts and collaborates with those in R & E community. Since there are inevitably shifts in priorities, it was decided to look at areas of focus.

Michael Corn agrees, but notes he’s seen erosion of perimeters and porous networks, the notion of internal & external go away with the move to the Cloud. He indicated that his network perimeters are eroding. What is Internet2’s role?

Shawn said that Internet2 is uniquely positioned, expanding and more collaborative, spanning both institutions and the community including international.

Jim Stewart noted that letters of support have evolved into statements of commitment and collaboration.

Jonah Keough asked how Internet2 fits into the much larger commercial internet market space?

Michael Corn indicated he thinks a lot about his security perimeter, which has enlarged. He finds the research area most interesting.

Rob Vietzke found this discussion consistent with starting Paul’s group years ago. When attempting to define “Research”, we may need a list of topics we can work on.

Dee Childs asked how Internet2 interacts with newly funded NSF division in charge of securing end-to-end for researchers? She would like to see a list of projects Internet2 is willing and able to engage in.

Rob likes the idea of flipping the model, much like what happened with the open science grid.

James Deaton asked if Scott and Shawn are willing to chair a subcommittee to explore? Rob suggests the committee be comprised of a mix of pag members and other researchers who would have opinions on this. [Names entered in chat window: Michael Corn, Doug Jennewein, Joe Breen, James Deaton]

2. 2021 Preview

a. Infrastructure Sharing and Platform Development (Chris Wilkinson)

-NGI Deployment Update:

Chris displayed a current map of the flex grid optical system. The team is doing 3-4 maintenance windows a week with a target completion date at the end of February or early March.
Regarding Packet deployment, teams are in the field working on the second set of sites, and hope to do a site a week with installations occurring through the end of March.

-BOREAS Collaboration

-Next Gen Fiber Availability Nationwide and Implications

b. Platform Service Agreement and NGI Packet Implementation Calls (George Loftus)

George indicated that Internet2 is in the process of reviewing agreements with our members to better reflect new services and some policy elements that need work. Will process findings through legal and they should then be ready to present to members. He indicated that the agreements are being updated to reflect the networking world of 2021 and standards are being brought into the agreements.

c. Security review of Cloud Connect (Paul Howell)

This review includes recommendations for member-facing improvements on which we will be seeking feedback from the NAOP.

Paul talked about the Cloud Connect security risk assessment that his team in creating. The Cloud Connect Service is based on OESS software where members create dedicated connections to the “direct connect” cloud services for Amazon, Microsoft and Google. Some recommendations have member-facing impacts including multi-factor environment for basic authentication and other areas where members can make changes to the network.

James indicated that some things should be codified and published as much as possible to set a standard. Michael said that his legislature does not seem to feel that higher ed takes security seriously; publishing what we are doing in this area would be good.

James thinks that those institutions who have willingly adopted MANRS have already adopted standards. Codifying some standards may encourage others to adopt. Jonah suggested putting these standards into connector contracts. Will pursue this topic next month.

Next meeting - February 17, 2021- pushing meeting out a week to avoid Quilt conflict.

NOTES FROM ROB’S MEETING WITH SHAWN AND MIKE

Research Support Discussion

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O5etwIdl8Hf49kJdl6njBaCJyh\_5cV47uruWgwqy6QA/edit?usp=sharing

Focus is on Network Services part of Internet2; Research Support Team in Community engagement is focused on other research engagement areas as is portions of the Trust and Identity team with collaboration enablement.

Network Services should provide a high level description of what we can offer researchers

 Ultimately presented with other internet2 areas, but specific to infrastructure

 Rationalize the types of support we can provide to researchers

 Great example at [science gateways.org](https://sciencegateways.org/consulting/work-with-us)

 Include updated approach to “letters of support”. LoS may no longer be enough. NSF expects supporters to be actively involved and requires “Letters of Collaboration” confirming the commitment (typically by referring to the project description).

 State areas of interest in upcoming years and items we would like to collaborate on

 End to End

 Behind the scenes items like telemetry, routing, performance, monitoring.

 Machine learning, automation, etc.

 Recognize as a network, Internet2 is only part of any program

Internet2 should consider potential grant funding opportunities

 Wrong argument to be concerned about competing with members

Hard to bridge perception that Internet2 is competing with members, but certain core areas need support.

In summary: time to write a new statement about goals, initial focus areas, pursuit of grants. Invite and prompt new collaborations.

Outreach is important. [PEARC](https://www.pearc.org/) conferences as well as regular meetings like [LHCONE/LHCOPN](https://lhcone.web.cern.ch/) would be good to solicit feedback

Agreed that we would like to brainstorm a list of names to get feedback on this straw-man from.

 Michael Corn (UCSD)

 Doug Jennewein (ASU)

 Joe Breen (Univ of Utah)

PAG Discussion

 Erosion of perimeter - impact of cloud - could reverse argument and say core role of internet2 is changing/eroding,

 May imply collaborative end to end / secure need to come together

 Some of the erosion of perimeter changes roles (oracle VPN example)

 Potential need for Highly distributed credentials/cryptography for securing these research projects

 The CI engineer concept may be worth revisiting: support for new C/I skills as the infrastructure that needs to be supported is evolving.

 What is the funding strategy for helping with advanced networking problems.

 Specifically align with existing funded support groups?