NAOPpag Monthly Meeting Notes

August 11, 2021

2:00PM – 3:00PM ET

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

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

Attendees: Michael Corn, Dan Schmiedt, Jim Stewart, James Deaton, Andrew Gallo, Jonah Keough, Rod Wilson, Bernie Gulachek, Shawn McKee, Derek Masseth, Jessie Minton, Cindy Leavitt, Jim Stewart, Michele Norin, Sarah Cristen

Unable to Attend: Scott Valcourt, Tracy Smith, Dee Childs

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

Consultant: Christopher Green

James Deaton welcomed the group to the summer meeting of the NAOPpag.

Rob expressed his gratitude to Michele Norin and Dee Childs for their guidance and counsel during their tenure on the pag. Both have been active participants in discussions helping shape future policy, particularly regarding the Next Generation Infrastructure.

Linda introduced and welcomed Cindy Leavitt, CIO at Temple University and Jessie Minton, CIO at the University of Oregon, as the newest members on the NAOP. Cindy announced that in September she will leave Temple to become CIO at The Ohio State University.

Next Generation Infrastructure: Turning Point from Infrastructure to Services

*Slides presented during the following discussion are in the NAOPpag Box folder -* [*https://internet2.box.com/s/ey197e9cu4jau6nh1un54916i691ahn7*](https://internet2.box.com/s/ey197e9cu4jau6nh1un54916i691ahn7) *- and contains diagrams and charts further illustrating the topic.*

Rob Vietzke introduced this section of the agenda saying that this is transition time for NGI, with only about 6 weeks of implementation work remaining. The implementation team is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel!

George Loftus discussed where we’re going next once the network is fully operational. The 5 goals originally highlighted by the community led to the development of 5 solutions designed to meet the community’s current and future needs. (5 Goals -> 5 Solutions = R & E Value). This has been a 5-year effort, beginning with early discussions with connectors ultimately resulting in the setting of the 5 goals. In the last few months, focus has been centered on the physical infrastructure; the shift now focuses on software-enabled features (new optical fiber, transport equipment, performance assurance, testing gear with eye on supporting areas identified.) Significant progress is underway on the migration effort utilizing automation solutions with NSO tools to make the transition from the old network to the new network.

Mike Simpson followed George to discuss the successes realized and vision for future efforts dividing his discussion into 2 sections: 1/ Where we are now and 2/ What’s next. 1/ Mike indicated that the 2 main vendor products (Ciena MCP and Cisco NSO) are in place managing all active orchestration for NGI. For the OESS-specific portion, a new version has been developed which can talk to both the old and the new networks. Mike introduced Christopher Green to the pag members; Christopher is a consultant working with Mike to develop a Network Services Console. Christopher broadly surveyed the community to make certain that we are headed in the right direction and, with Mike, came up with the console which provides a simple integrated system for Network Services Management. 2/ Mike and his team are working toward development of a unified NS API layer that abstracts away from vendor specifics and standardizes everything below in the stack. The thinking is that using other tools may be desirable at some point and can be continuously developed as needed for the life of the NGI network. There is also the potential for joint development; the desire is to build intelligent interfaces in ways that help the individual user. Mike talked about starting with a new “looking glass” (also known as router proxy) providing educational and operational visibility as a steppingstone toward a routing portal and security piece, which are more complex and time consuming. Mike Corn suggested that security be at the forefront of any discussions, others agreed, and Rob wants further discussion on what to prioritize next.

Chris Wilkinson provided an implementation update with charts and diagrams illustrating the process from the shim stage, through migration, to deactivation (and the myriad steps in between). Complete decommissioning of the legacy network is projected to take place by December 15th.

Progress Update from Routing Security Subcommittee: Possible Service Discussion (Paul Howell)

Paul Howell said that the Routing Security Subcommittee has come up with the idea of creating promotional messaging to executive officers of higher ed institutions in which the topic of routing security is framed as a risk management mitigation service. Paul also mentioned the idea of having a tool to assess internet-facing practices.

Status on Federal Advocacy for “The Minds we Need” (found here: <https://mindsweneed.org> )

Rob stated that people are currently working to find sponsors in Congress who will insert messaging from “The Minds we Need” paper into the federal infrastructure package and they are starting to see more people trying to move things forward; the paper seems to be having an influence. Vendors,like Juniper, Cisco, Ciena, have offered to help and institutional endorsements are still being sought. Rob would like to see regular discussion on the topic.

James wished everyone a successful opening of the new school year and announced the date of the next meeting: September 8, 2021.

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