NAOPpag Call

9/8/21

In attendance: Sara Christen, Mike Corn, James Deaton, Andrew Gallo, Bernie Gulachek, Jonah Keough, Cindy Leavitt, Derek Masseth, Shawn McKee, Jessie Minton, Dan Schmiedt, Tracy Smith, Scott Valcourt

Unable to attend: Rod Wilson, Jim Stewart

Internet2: Paul Howell, Linda Roos, Mike Simpson, Rob Vietzke, Chris Wilkinson

Agenda:

Welcome

Discussion Topics

Update on the Minds We Need Advocacy

Next Generation Infrastructure: Turning Point from Infrastructure to Services

NGI Implementation Progress Report

Notes:

James Deaton, NAOPpag chair, welcomed the group to the call.

Discussion Topics

1. Update on the Minds We Need Advocacy

Rob began the conversation by asking if the community wants to do something together as a group around the Minds We Need Advocacy. He went on to describe the process used to create the Minds We Need document--10 focus groups were held in April and the paper rolled out in May. Since then, Internet2 staff, the Quilt and others have met with NTIA, the White House Office of Technology Policy and other organizations regarding the paper. Rob mentioned that the themes of the paper make sense--connecting every mind and campus makes sense and is important. At this point, because the bills are written, want people to apply to existing programs that include block grant programs for each state. There is a small amount of money in the bills for grants and these will favor people who have developed a plan. The federal committee is going say how want to spend the money and Minds We Need may fit into that. For the most part, the proposed programs are focused on fiber to home/consumer broadband

State-based grants. We are trying to get handle on relationship between state-based broadband office and R&E Network organizations. Derek mentioned that they are deploying open access middle mile within AZ and are partnering with telecos, getting them to trade and swap to allow access to community colleges and CAIs. Many of the other regionals have reasonable awareness about their state broadband offices (if one exists) and are trying to figure out how to work together. Jonah mentioned that the focus is on underserved communities and service to homes which are not part of core mission of the typical regional so it isn’t obvious how to plug into the funding. Rob indicated that, believing in the idea that more institutions would benefit from being part of the R&E ecosystems, are there things that we can do? He also mentioned the Digital Equity Act requirement to build state digital equity broadband and that might be important for our community. The group mentioned that security needs to be a central tenant of Minds We Need. Rob indicated that the Minds document focused on infrastructure, people and tools not on institutional security. Tracy asked how we help R&E be prepared and whether there is an opportunity to create playbooks, seek a mix of public/private partnerships and observe what is being doing in other places that we can bring back. Other notions discussed included helping people understand how to build partnerships and pushing awareness into states and get best practices back. The following agreed to meet and continue to discuss: Sara Christen, Mike Corn, James Deaton, Jonah Keough, Derek Masseth, and Tracy Smith.

1. Next Generation Infrastructure: Turning Point from Infrastructure to Services

We are continuing the conversation from august around 2022 software plans for Router proxy, cloud connect, and routing portal. The document provided covered those three as well as several other topics that were important during NGI planning. Mike Simpson mentioned that Network Services has been consumed by NGI until now and, as we finish NGI and look ahead, Internet2 has the flexibility around the software work being chosen for 12-18 months. The PAG discussed what those topics could be and promised to socialize the ideas with their own teams. The group talked about how running network requires more sophistication and more sophisticated staff at the same time as higher ed is trying to reduce overhead. The PAG asked which of the Internet2 initiatives would allow them to save staff resources and re-apply the resources to projects where Internet2 isn’t able to provide answers. The group went on to discuss what industry is doing while R&E is lagging behind. Further, if there are gaps between industry and R&E and we should be pursuing those projects, it is important to ask if Internet2 can be the solutions provider. It was mentioned that Internet2 has stepped up to focus on routing security, for example. Are there other examples?

Rob asked the group whether they would prefer 60- or 90-minute meetings. It often seems like we scratch surface of lots of things and having more time to dig into the context would be helpful. We would like to allow the conversation to continue. We will extend the October meeting to 90 minutes and conduct a Doodle poll for a permanent time for 2022.

NGI Overview

It was reported that August was an all-time traffic month. Last year was a big year and this year beat the 2020 traffic totals by 20%. With all of this growth, the old network is pushing its capacity limits and we need to move to the new infrastructure. During the implementation, we have made use of automation. The entire implementation team has been hard-working and flexible during this work.

NTAC brief update

Two updates

1. Multicast working group will soon finish up the survey with the connectors
2. Several months Rob mentioned an issue regarding unannounced maintenance tickets.

Rob mentioned that the quarterly stats indicated that 60% of tickets are unannounced maintenances and the Internet2 NOC was spending time following up on those. The NTAC

followed up on this and discussed and we are hoping to make improvements as a community.