NetGuru-3 Best and Worst of 2006

Best and Worst from 2006

Best

- Deploying Layer 3 core
- No traffic disruption devices
- Load balancing
- Redundant fibers to closest POP
- Data center upgrade
- Upgrading all 1200 APs on campus (see also Worst...)
- DNSSEC being evaluated seriously
- Large upgrades happening across campuses
- VoIP - worked out successful business model
- Integrating/synchronizing teams of engineers on multiple campuses
- Hired new security director - convinced performance is as important as security
- IT re-org - got rid of silos
- Merging voice/video/data orgs
- Schedule failure testing of network - 95% worked as it should have and uncovered some problems...
- Getting off state-mandated Centrex PBX
- Successfully fending off attacks
- Network diagnostics rising up the priority stack
- Fiber pathway going away...
- User expectations for networking (e.g. performance, availability) are finally living up to what we thought they might be in years past
- Statewide fiber network
- Wireless standards
- Layer 3 core
- Organization embraced "customer driven" approach
- Systematic approach to network data export (for research)
- Blackhole router (automated) - Juniper XML or Zebra router

Worst

- Traffic engineering
- Capacity exceptions
- Planning of lightweight wireless deployments
- Voice outage - operational issue rather than an outage
- Sharing responsibility with another group to manage fiber install
- Secure wireless prototype (WPA) rollout no one is using...
- Migration of old load balancer - caused outages
- Upgrading all 1200 APs on campus
- Turning off Usenet on campus
- Integrating/synchronizing teams of engineers on multiple campuses
- VoIP rollout - cost recovery/business model
- Silo disruption is getting in the way of work getting done
- Security reports separately from IT infra group. They campaigned to put firewalls in front of every edge network on campus...
- VoIP rollout challenges
- Metro wireless challenges
- Moving onto new phone switch...
- Unit level firewall deployment
- Engineering challenges around VoIP rollout
- Traffic disruption (middle) boxes
- No sign of progress against worsening complexity...
- Fresh look at options as a result of external challenges
- User expectations that wireless capacity/availability is/should be the same as wired network.
- "selling" new cost recovery or business models for wireless/phone/data/backup services
- New voicemail system deployment
- Changed the funding model for faculty grants
- Big firewall project
- sup720-3b table space exhaustion
- Redundancy - degraded service harder to see
- Installing new IPSEC platform instead of SSL VPN