

An Introduction to the Newly Formed Network Information and Services Group

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I would like to introduce the newly formed Network Information and Services (NIS) Group, Rebecca Nitzan, Allen Sturtevant and myself. In addition, we are in the process of hiring two more persons. The charter of the group follows.

Charter

Our charter is to provide network users, ESNET site coordinators, and NMFEECC personnel with the specific network information and support services they need to effectively use the networks supported by NMFEECC. This will be accomplished through various methods of information dissemination in addition to identifying and resolving network problems that do not currently fall under the auspices of either the Network Engineering Group or the User Information Systems Group. The group will also provide essential ancillary network services, such as naming and addressing, that are not currently under the jurisdiction of either the Network Hosts Group or the Data Communications Group. The NIS Group will coordinate and work with all of the above mentioned groups to ensure success in attaining these goals.

In simple terms, we will provide the User Information Systems Group at NMFEECC with tools that will allow them to identify and rectify certain network problems, such as a dead machine or an incorrect host name, host address, or e-mail address. They will refer all problems to us that can not be easily

identified or resolved, such as e-mail loops, name resolution failures, and incorrect IP routes. We will then identify the problem and forward it on to the responsible party for resolution.

The group intends to implement an information server that will be accessible via such tools as FTP, NETTY, and DECNET "SET HOST." This server will provide information to users such as topological network maps, network and host status reports, and any urgent news bulletins that need to be posted immediately. In the interim, we will set up an ANONYMOUS account on CCC for viewing urgent news items. Please see the following article by Allen Sturtevant for a detailed description on how to obtain this information. I strongly urge you to read the news bulletins in the `SYSSUSER3: [ANONYMOUS.ESNET_NEWS]` directory concerning the changes in IP addresses and hosts names at NMFEECC and how it affects your use of FTP, TELNET, and Internet mail. We also intend to use other media, such as BULLETIN, NEWS, and the *Buffer*, when appropriate.

If you know of anyone else who might be interested in obtaining any of the ESNET and NMFEECC network information and news and who cannot do so via the mechanisms mentioned above, please have them send me an e-mail or postal address to which we can send the information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (`aiken@ccc.mfecc.llnl.gov`).

We urge you to read the news bulletins on network address changes.