

CSIRO DIVISION OF ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH
COMPUTING COMMITTEE

Agenda, Meeting 29, Monday 25th June 1990 at 1400, Meeting Room, Climate Research Laboratory.

1. Committee representation for Facilities and Scientific Services groups.
2. Minutes and business arising.
3. Supercomputing and proposed charging.
4. Report on status of local computer facilities and plans for future. Computer Services budget for 1990-91.
5. Status of AARNET.
6. General business.

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Minutes, Meeting 28, Thursday 15th February 1990 at 1100

1. Present

R. Bell, M. Dix, K. Barker, M. Borgas, B. Hunt, T. Eccleston,
P. Manins, R. O'Brien, P. Turner.

An apology was received from I. Enting who is on leave.

2. Computing Group Reorganization

The Computing Group has been renamed the Computer Services Group, with Tony Eccleston as Group leader. Robert Bell has joined the Climate Change Group with overall supercomputer responsibilities. The Computer Services Group is reduced to three staff.

3. Computing Committee

The name has been changed from the Computing Advisory Committee. R. O'Brien was replacing H. Granek, but that role is to be taken by M. Dix. The role of the committee was discussed and education, planning, policy and regulatory roles were endorsed. The full extent of the committee's power is to be determined.

Martin Dix is to replace Robert Bell as secretary after this meeting.

4. Business Arising

Cyber 205 conversion.

The end of service is to be February 28th and conversion needs to be done promptly.

NQS for Silicon Graphics

Awaiting advice from Silicon Graphics. RCB

TEX installation

Now installed on the Silicon Graphics but needs new fonts.

AJE

An expert in TEX usage is needed in the Division and Paul Holper was suggested. BGH

Output Arrangements

Spooling to remote laser printers is desirable. Problems with use of HPGL and PostScript and manual mode changing, the transfer of the Climate Group laserprinter to the Computing Group, purchase of another printer, 24 hour operation and the use of laser printers compared with line printers were discussed. AJE

HP Maintenance Contract

The committee agreed to take all the HP equipment off the maintenance contract, with the Remote Sensing group to pay for repairs to all HP equipment except the A900. The A900 is to be retired soon.

PC connection to Ethernet
PC-NFS is available. Silicon Graphics is working on support for PC-NFS. The Western Digital Ethernet Plus card is recommended at about \$350. PC-NFS provides convenient remote printing and file sharing between PCs.

5. Cray YMP / LET

The machine is in Australia. The target date for production use is March 22nd. A 2 Mbit/s line from Aspendale to Port Melbourne is on order. Interim access should be available from March 23rd, with full access from mid-April. The need for extra processing power on site was discussed.

6. Future PC purchases

The Computing Purchase Review Committee has been set up as a subcommittee of the Computing Committee and has delayed several PC purchase proposals. Letters from Peter Turner and Jorgen Jensen were received. Material from NCAR SCD on X windows was distributed.

A vigorous discussion on the merits of PCs, X-terminals and workstations ensued. An X-terminal and workstation demonstration will be held on Wednesday February 21st and 0930, after which the CPRC will decide on the proposed purchases.

7. Cabling and terminations

It is proposed to cut over to the new termination system on February 23rd to allow access from the new building. There will be an interruption to the local network service.

8. Archive storage

A need for permanent storage was raised. An Exabyte or DAT tape drive or an optical disc system is proposed for next financial year.