

JOINT NETWORK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Network and Telecoms Operations Report
20th Oct 2022

NETWORK SYSTEMS

Janet Link Upgrade

The upgrade of the UDN's connection to Janet was completed during July, as described at the previous meeting.

Due to some unexpected behaviour of the equipment, there were some issues with the configuration which would have resulted in significant performance issues, if the IPS had been removed or failed. These were resolved with software reconfiguration on 24th August and 5th September and tested successfully.

UDN service charges for AY 2022-2023

The updated prices for UDN services for AY 2022-2023, agreed at the previous JNMC, have been updated on the UIS website and a notice will be circulated, advising of the new rates.

DDI Replacement

This project has re-commenced, now that the border router work has been completed.

The current DDI solution is an in-house system developed approximately 20 years ago and has incurred minimal operating costs (aside from staff time) of approximately £8,000 over a 5-year cycle. The funding for this was taken from the UDN Sink Fund (as the system is used by all institutions with a network connection).

The aim is to replace this system with a commercial solution, probably requiring some local development to integrate it with other University systems. The commercial solution is likely to be of significantly increased cost.

Indicative figures were obtained approximately one year ago and varied dramatically between candidate systems. A middle figure, however, is ~£80,000+VAT capital and ~£80,000+VAT/year recurrent — the GBP-USD rate has, however, significantly worsened over the past 12 months and it is expected this figure will increase.

Capital funding for the replacement system will be taken from the UDN Sink Fund but recurrent funding from the UIS Subscriptions budget, outside the UDN.

Work on this project has recommenced is expected to commence after the border router upgrade is complete.

GBN/INSTALLATIONS

1. PIA Opportunities

Collating costs and verifying design of PIA connection to four boathouses.

2. Network Diversions

In Progress:

1-3 Hills Rd – University disposing of the asset requiring a significant project to remove the GBN from the site

St John's Buttery – Reinstatement of the GBN route through the Buttery

A1301 – Wellcome Sanger Institute extending campus required GBN to be diverted

St Edmunds – New porters lodge proposed to be built over GBN. Diversion required.

Whittle Lab – New building planned at rear of site, requiring GBN diversion

Cantabs Rugby Ground – New vehicle entrance planned requiring slewing of GBN duct.

3. Network Extensions

In Progress:

Cav III: New Physics Laboratory at West Cambridge.

King's College: Diverse GBN node for main site

West Cambridge Site external Wi-Fi project

Completed:

Astra Zeneca HQ at CBC: GBN node installed

CISL, 1 Regent's St: relocation to new premises

4. College GBN Works

In Progress: New Ct, Emma College (Emma), Wilberforce Rd (St John's), Girton Gatehouse (Girton)

Completed: Pound Hill (St John's)

5. Network Installations (LAN)

Geography Migration: As part of the Geography migration to UIS services, NI carrying out a full replacement of department IT cabinets, local fibre and structured copper wiring. – Complete

Sidgwick Site: Civils and cabling being undertaken to provide great resiliency to the LAN and remove cabling routes running through asbestos contaminated areas. – on-going

6. University Residences WiFi Rollout

Southacre Flats, Chaucer Rd & Panton St: costs being reviewed by Accommodation Office

Northwest Cambridge for Accommodation Office: costs being reviewed by Accommodation Office

7. Light Blue Fibre

GBN team continuing to support LBF with inquiries.

Currently exploring opportunities Stephen Perse Foundation

WIRELESS

- WPA3 / Wi-Fi 6E technologies remain under testing by the team. As part of this WPA3 has been rolled out in the Roger Needham Building on eduroam and we have identified candidate buildings for wider testing. Should all go well we hope to be able to deploy WPA3 support on eduroam later this year.

- We are investigating Aruba's cloud service management system, Aruba Central, and the complimentary Aruba Operating System 10 and how it will impact the service we deliver. We have built a test/development network to facilitate learning about this technology.
- Equipment procurement remains a challenge with some lead times exceeding 12 months. This is creating challenges fulfilling both BAU and new requirements. As such, we continue to ask the University IT community to work with us to carefully plan their network needs well in advance.
- University Wireless are getting more and more requests to support exams performed over Wi-Fi. We are working with the Teaching & Learning Systems in the UIS to provide coordinated support for this rather than dealing directly with the ad-hoc (external to UIS) requests that are being sent directly to the team.

TELECOMS

No updates.

20/10/2022