Farewell Address

Some reflections after 4 years in the job

TERENA Networking Conference
Zagreb
22 May 2003

David Williams, CERN
and TERENA President

Did I finally learn to recycle....?

Some (occasionally slightly edited) slides from ....

Farewell Address

Some reflections after 12 months in the job

TERENA Networking Conference
Lisboa
25 May 2000

David Williams, CERN
and TERENA President

TERENA's Technical Role

- NRENs are members of TERENA.

- They all have their own excellent technical staff.

- Who are continually investigating new technologies and planning for the technical evolution of their NRN in their particular national environment.

- These are all busy people, but they quickly realise that some technical jobs are so important (and so difficult) that they cannot be handled on their own.

- That's when we should use the TERENA Technical Programme to enhance/coordinate/enable/share/accelerate.

- An important job of the TERENA management (all of us) to make sure that we investing our resources in the right areas.

Technical opportunities

- Speaking personally….

- I see middleware (whether for grids or for more generic applications) as an area of major importance for the next few years. It will need close attention to make sure that different application areas do not diverge, nationally or internationally.

- Plenty of interesting and valuable work to be done…

European Union

- The creation of a Research Networking Unit in DG InfSo was very good news.

- It has not had the easiest of start-ups, but we are pleased to see that it is now getting the support that it deserves from the highest levels of the Commission.

The European Research Area

- Commissioner Busquin (Research portfolio) produced a document late in 1999 entitled "Towards a European Research Area". Available via http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/

- One of the basic ideas is that we need to broaden the goals and scope of European research, and to plan it more coherently.

- For the first time (that I can remember) the Research Commissioner seems to grasp the importance of computer networking as an enabling technology for all fields of research.

My dream…

- My dream would be that someone donates to the research networking community two fibre pairs passing through all European capitals
- And we start to deploy services on different wavelengths on those fibres.

SOME NEW POINTS

Technical Direction(s)

- It is now clear (to me) that NRENs are/will have to work much more closely with:-
    - Academic leadership (campus, nationally, internationally,…)
    - Academic IT services (campus, nationally, internationally,…)
    - Multiple user communities (campus, nationally, internationally,…)
- In order to establish:-
    - Euro-compatible (and worldwide) AAA services (and trust)
    - Conventions for data, metadata, sharing (grids etc.), …..

Digital Divide (inside Europe)

- When there is no or too little competition, network infrastructure can be ridiculously expensive

- Those that have already reaped the benefits of the huge price declines have a duty to help their colleagues cope with systems where the politicians and operators have not yet understood.

- This is a challenge for us collectively – via TERENA, DANTE, NREN-PC, SERENATE etc. – and individually

- But I am proud to see the huge progress that has been made in the past ~5 years, and this conference is just one example

ABOVE ALL,

REMEMBER TO PLAY YOUR ROLE AS POLITICIANS

My personal thanks

- To all of the TERENA staff
- To all of my colleagues on the Executive for their support, for their hard work, and for their constructive approach
- To everyone helping to move this enterprise forward
- To our colleagues for other continents for their collaboration