UKNOF

The UK Network Operator’s Forum

UKNOF 1 Meeting
London 25th May 2005

Keith Mitchell
UKNOF Founding Chair
UKIF Technical Director
Speaker’s Background

- Founder of UK’s first commercial ISP, PIPEX, 1992-1996
- Founder and Executive Chairman of London Internet Exchange, LINX, 1994-2000
- Non-executive Director of Nominet, 1996-2002
- Chair, RIPE NCC Executive Board, 1997-1999
- Founder and CTO of first pan-European commercial IXP operator, XchangePoint, 2000-2005
- http://www.keithmitchell.co.uk
Our Industry is in a Mess 😞

- Wholesale and retail margin-squeeze
- Hackers, Spammers, Phishing, Botnets
- IPv6 and Multicast still not widespread
- “eBay” backbone engineering
- Routers vs switches cost/clue disparity
- Minimal investment and innovation
Our Industry is in a Mess ☹️

- Mobile and broadcast networks largely not based on IP/IETF standards
- Digital content/rights standards mostly proprietary
- Increasing regulation
- WSIS/ITU governance threats
- etc…

⇒ Most of the above have not improved over the past 4-5 years
What can we do?

- From a technical network operator perspective, it is hard to fix the external political or commercial problems.
- But we can try and run our networks in a more efficient, educated and co-ordinated fashion.
- Raise standards of awareness and best practice across industry.
- Emulate successful co-operation models for this from elsewhere.
International Network Operator Groups

- **NANOG**: North American Network Operators’ Group, established 1994
- **RIPE**: Reseaux IP Europeans, established 1989
- Various national/regional network operators’ groups:
  - SwissNOG, FROG, SENOG, NZNOG, SANOG
- Provide successful **open** forums, mostly via regular events and mailing lists
UKIF Forums

- UK Internet Federation: Lobby group
- Became UK Internet Forum in late 2004 to reach out to a wide base of stakeholders with interests in the UK Internet industry
- Currently 3 Forums (“Fora”)
  - Regulatory Forum
  - Enterprise Forum
  - Technical Forum = UKNOF
UKNOF Participation

- Open to all
  - activities not restricted to members of any one organisation
  - companies, non-commercials, individuals
- Geographic diversity
  - at least one meeting per year outside of London
  - remote participation planned
- All types of network operators
  - emphasis on public IP and Ethernet
  - ISPs, IXPs, carriers, etc
From Charter:

- “To pro-actively support the sharing of knowledge, ideas and best practices to enhance the effective, stable and secure operation of the UK's Internet infrastructure as a whole.”

- “UKNOF's remit is technical, and any discussion or activities involving commercial, legal or political issues should be limited to where they have a direct impact on technical aspects of network operations.”
UKNOF Activities

• “Distribution of clue” 😊
• Meetings 3-4 times/year
  – Current, interesting, stimulating, relevant sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices
• Mailing list
  – http://mailman.mailbox.co.uk/mailman/listinfo/uknof
• Working groups as required
  – e.g. “UK-NSPSEC” ?
• Inform and participate in “joined-up industry”
UKNOF Meetings

• Initially 1-day format
• Contributed and invited speakers
• Regular slots:
  – Updates from UK IXP operators (c.f. RIPE EIX WG)
  – Update from name/number registries
  – “Internet History” slot (IOF WG 😊)
  – “Peering Personals”
  – PGP signing sessions
  – Working groups
UKNOF Non-Activities

• UKNOF is a *forum* for discussion and sharing of knowledge and information

• It does not perform any lobbying, trade association or representational role
  – other forums exist for these

• Exception clause in charter to work against potentially *technically* damaging proposals
  – only if strong consensus amongst participants
UKNOF Funding

• Three Main Potential Sources:
  1. Sponsorship from vendors
  2. Meeting registration fees
  3. UKIF subscribers

⇒ these are in decreasing order of openness and hence preference

• Other possibilities include public funding, and service-specific subscriptions

• What is best mix?

• What would be an acceptable meeting registration fee?
UKNOF Secretariat

- Provided by UKIF
- Event admin: registration, venue, delegate info
- Speaker and delegate communication
- Marketing and Sponsor liaison
- Provide and operate web and mailing list servers
- Press and publicity liaison and contact
- Needs roughly 1 FTE split amongst various individuals
UKNOF exists mainly to run interesting events
It does not require a heavy-duty governance structure
Proposal is to have programme committee of ~6 individuals
Their remit is to solicit interesting presentations
Need active, qualified volunteers rather than “representatives”
Could potentially put selection process in place in unlikely event of excess of volunteers
First PC work item to enhance governance model
Contact Details

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