

UKNOF

The UK Network Operator's Forum

UKNOF 1 Meeting
London 25th May 2005

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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

UKNOF Remit



- 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

Programme Committee



- 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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