CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Open Systems Group Update: Announcing Network Storage and Archiving

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Open Systems Group Update: Announcing Network Storage and Archiving

Welcome to our inaugural column about NERDC's Open Systems Group. We are very excited about the opportunity to talk to you about what we are working on. This is where we will be sharing our goals and activities with you here in /Update. Each month, we will discuss planned projects, ongoing project developments, and current projects. We will try to address topics of interest relating to campus-wide services and NERSP-specific services.

For starters, we'd like to take a moment to explain where we get our name. The term open systems is a concept that refers to a body of standard operating systems interfaces that allows applications software to be moved between computer systems from multiple vendors. These interfaces can be used by anyone (hence, the word "open") and are maintained by group consensus.

The Open Systems Group also regularly contributes to several Open Source software projects by submitting updates and feature additions. These submissions are additions that we wrote to support NERSP. When they are accepted as part of the standards, this keeps us from having to maintain a separate "branch" of the code.

Open Systems Group also has a mission to work with many departments and units on campus and also within NERDC itself. Our group is an integral part of NERDC and we work with Network Services, the CICS group, the DB2 group, and other units. Outside of NERDC, we work with Information Systems, the Office of the University Registrar (O.U.R.), the maintainers of EAGLE, and others.

New Service

A good example of our work with other departments on campus is a new service that NERDC is introducing, network storage and archive management (NSAM). We have been using this service internally to back up the NERSP system as well as some NERDC servers and workstations. Additionally, we implemented a pilot project with the UF Foundation and O.U.R. to test the feasibility of making it a production service available to customers. We are happy to be able to provide this service now.

Currently, this service consists of a network application that provides a backup facility to user devices such as servers and workstations. We plan to expand the suite of services to include an archival facility, including off-site storage. As demand for these services grows, we also plan to use hierarchical storage management tools to maximize our use of premium and remote storage resources.

In the meantime, NSAM users will have 24-hour access to our robotic tape system for uploading and downloading backup files. And users will enjoy the advantages of the availability of redundant backup copies and of having administrative control over the scheduling of backups for their group. For information about charges for NSAM, please see NERDC Document N0334 [http://docweb.cns.ufl.edu/news/n0334/n0334.html] entitled New Network Storage and Archive Management Service.

This is just a sample of the sort of projects and issues that we will address in future issues. We are happy to have this opportunity to talk to you and look forward to our continued dialog.
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Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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