NERDC Network Services Coordinator Hooks Up Paris, London Conferences

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida 32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>
# Table of Contents

NERDC Network Services Coordinator Hooks Up Paris, London Conferences ...........3
NERDC Network Services Coordinator
Hooks Up Paris, London Conferences

If it's October, this must be Paris. If it's November, this must be London. Or so it must have seemed to NERDC Network Services Coordinator Dave Pokorney, who made back-to-back trips to Paris and London this year to participate in the design and configuration of a demonstration network.

Pokorney -- "Poke" to his colleagues and friends -- has been volunteering his network skills to InteropNet (the network created at Networld+Interop conferences) since 1992.

This year Interop invited Pokorney to Europe and shouldered all expenses while he worked with other engineers to design, implement, operate -- and then dismantle! -- InteropNet as it moves from one locale to another. Other volunteers come from academe, government agencies, and the industry.

"It's a wonderful training environment," said Ron Schoenau, NERDC director. "They go into this show facility and have a huge network that has to be set up in a very short time."

"Downtime," Schoenau added, "is unacceptable."

According to organizers, the show creates a one-stop shopping source for networking professionals who seek answers to the daily challenges of the information systems environment, while InteropNet connects the networking professionals at this conference to the outside world and to each other.

At each venue, the volunteers plan, assemble and eventually break down the multiplatform network using equipment donated by exhibiting companies from around the world. The equipment is linked by 140 miles of eye-catching, hot-pink fiber-optic cables.

InteropNet acts as both a production network with Internet connectivity and a demonstration network, according to Interop literature. The network is used to demonstrate how innovations
will benefit attendee's networks.

"My primary task, outside of putting up the ribs and backbone cables (physical layer installation), is to direct the Network Services group," Pokorney said. "This includes building the network within the Network Services booth and building the systems that we use to keep track of customer requests."

Pokorney also helped "hot stage" the network, a period when volunteers build the network using the contributed equipment, then test, disassemble, pack, ship, and finally recreate the network at the first venue.

"Interop invited him, and offered to pay all his conference and travel expenses, and we accepted," Schoenau said. "He was working from dawn till very late at night."


Schoenau says Pokorney's involvement reflects well on the data center. "It's an honor and a valuable credential," he said. "You need to be good and have a reputation to match," Schoenau said.

Pokorney says the event benefits all parties involved. "It's a positive experience for both Interop and NERDC. A good exchange of information and technical expertise takes place during all aspects of this involvement," he said.

"It was quite informative to help fix vendor problems within their own exhibit booths," Pokorney says, adding that he's been sworn to silence about the details by the vendors.

Your Comments are Welcome

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

UFIT Information Technology

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida 32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>