CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

A Quarter Century of Experience and Service

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A Quarter Century of Experience and Service

NERDC has a talented and experienced systems programming staff. The current staff has been largely intact since the implementation of MVS in the late '70s and has successfully migrated that initial system through the many MVS versions to the current OS/390 (MVS) system.

This has permitted the development of well-respected and coordinated teams with expertise in networking and other areas of large-systems design and maintenance. The NERDC staff offers leadership and technical ability as well as operational support.

SHARE

The current President of SHARE (an international user group focusing on IBM systems) is a member of the NERDC staff.

In addition, these SHARE leadership positions are currently held by NERDC staff members:

- Deputy Director Cluster Operations
- CICS Project Manager
- DB2 Deputy Project Manager
- JES2 Deputy Project Manager

Over the years, NERDC staff members have also held these SHARE offices:

- Treasurer (Board of Directors)
- Secretary
- Director
- Communications Division Manager
- Graphic and Integrated Systems Deputy Division Manager
- Three concurrent Advisory Council positions: Communications Deputy Division Manager, Manager of Personnel Development, and SHARE Fellow.

NERDC has also had three recipients of the SHARE Presidents award.

One of our staffers was a member, and later chair, of the SHARE System Workflow Manager Task Force, which met with MVS designers for a five-year period and acted as a sounding board for several of the straw-man proposals that eventually led to what we now know as Parallel Enterprise Server and the Workload Manager. Several SHARE white papers in the
area of communications management have been co-authored by NERDC staffers.

Networking

Outside of the SHARE arena, NERDC staff demonstrate leadership roles in networking, serving on the:

- SNA Customer Council
- NETVIEW/6000 Customer Council
- Communications Technical Advisory Council (CTAC)

NERDC also participated in the production of the NETVIEW/6000 Customer Video.

NERDC was instrumental in establishing the first State University System network in the 1970s.

One of our networking staff has managed the trouble desk at several Networld+Interop (N+I) conventions in Europe (at N+I’s request and expense). Networld+Interop links networking professionals with a traveling demonstration network the group creates, assembles, configures, and disassembles at host cities.

NERDC was a charter participant in the Florida Information Resource Network, which was at the time (early 1980s) the most advanced statewide educational network in the nation.

A member of NERDC participates in the Alachua Freenet (AFN) as a vice president and a member of the Board of Directors. AFN gives access to the Internet and community resources to over 10,000 people.

A NERDC staff member serves as chair for the Gainesville Chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

A staff member served on the City/County Cable Advisory Committee for over eight years and served as Chair.

Applications & Systems Support

The NERDC staff has had many years of leadership in systems and applications development and maintenance as well, serving on advisory councils, participating in technical groups, and speaking at conferences nationwide. Groups supported include:

- VTAM Tuning Action Group (VTAG)
- CICS Joint User Group Project (SHARE, GUIDE, ASG, etc.)
- AIX/ESA Customer Council
- AIX Supercomputing Consortium
• Board of SUPER! (past)
• Board of INFORMA

NERDC staff members also:

• Hosted a delegation from Taiwan's National Center for High Performance Computing (NCHC) to share our experiences using AIX/ESA.
• Spoke at SHARE on AIX/ESA R2 Early Experiences
• Spoke at an OSF membership meeting about AIX/ESA OSF/1 experiences.
• Participated in the System 390 Technical Insights Field Training Network

NERDC staff members include two past-presidents of the Florida Association for Educational Data Systems (FAEDS), which coordinates computing conferences for MIS directors of Florida public educational systems. NERDC currently has two staff members on the FAEDS Board of Directors.

Technical Expertise

At NERDC, the ability to coordinate a statewide technical project includes the technical ability to put it up and keep it running. NERDC staff excels in, and is widely recognized for, its technical expertise and the ability to apply this expertise toward the resolution of user needs. The frequent validation of NERDC's technical acumen is seen by its selection for the management of critical applications and by its participation in Early Support Programs (ESPs) which provide experience working with breaking technologies at all levels.

Networking ESPs

Networking Early Support Programs (ESPs) have included:

• RSCS Version 3.2.0
• VTAM Version 3 Release 4 ESP
• NetView/6000 Versions 2, 3 and 4
• NPM ESP
• Beta test, CISCO operating system for access servers
• Beta test, US Robotics Enterprise Network Modem Hub.

In addition, NERDC staff has experience with a wide range of communications protocols:
• Several LAN servers are housed and operated by NERDC for UF

• NERDC was under contract with the State of Florida Division of Communications (DoC) as consultants for DoC’s statewide SNA network and TCP/IP network.

• NERDC designed the statewide WAN for the Florida Center for Library Automation.

**Systems Support**

The technical expertise carries over, as well, to the systems component. NERDC maintains three state-of-the-art IBM systems. They are:

1. An IBM 9672-R22 which runs VM/ESA Release 2.2

2. An IBM 9672-R45 system which runs:
   • OS/390 1.3
   • CICS 4.1
   • DB2 2.3
   • DFSMS Version 1.3
   • VTAM 4.4

3. And, an IBM RS/6000 SP which runs:
   • AIX/6000, IBM’s implementation of UNIX
   • Pine e-mail
   • Apache (WWW)
   • a variety of compilers and utilities

**Systems and Applications ESPs**

NERDC’s participation in ESPs related to systems and applications software have included:

• VM/SP Release 3 ESP

• VM/XA SF Release 2 ESP

• VM/XA SP Release 1 Early Field Test

• VM/ESA Version 2

• DIRMAINT Release 5
The CICS systems staff maintains several multi-region CICS systems. A large number of applications developed by different administrative entities of the university are integrated into these systems, and one of the CICS systems supports the largest full-function library system in the country.

Operational Support

NERDC Operations is staffed 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week in a facility which includes redundant air conditioning, an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) with a backup diesel generator, Halon fire suppression, card-key security system, and off-site tape storage for disaster recovery.

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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