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

- <u>NANOG</u>: North American Network Operators' Group, established 1994

- <u>RIPE</u>: 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
- $\Rightarrow$ 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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