Network Nebraska

Objective

- To develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the State of Nebraska.

Description

Network Nebraska aggregates disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Omaha to Lincoln to Grand Island, with Ethernet clouds extending out to the furthest corners of the state. The State of Nebraska Office of the CIO, the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission have formed the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) to guide and implement Network Nebraska. The next phase of this initiative is to formalize business relationships and agreements and to enhance rural bandwidth through local aggregation.

The major components of this initiative include:
- Development of a scalable, reliable, and secure telecommunications infrastructure that enables any type of eligible entity (i.e., local and state government, K-12 and higher education, health care institutions) to purchase the amount of service that the entities need, when they need it, on an annual basis;
- Establishment of a catalog of value-added services that enables eligible entities to pick and choose applications that are pertinent to them (e.g., Internet1, Internet2, and videoconferencing);
- Implementation of a network operations center that offers a helpdesk, network diagnostics, and engineering assistance in order to ensure acceptable qualities of service;
- Establishment of a billing or accounting center to accept service orders, extend service agreements, provide consolidated billing, and to maintain customer accounts;
- The organization of advisory groups (i.e. Network Nebraska—Education) that can provide input and recommendations on network issues to the executive sponsors of such networks.

Benefits

Through aggregation of demand, adoption of common standards, and collaboration with network services and applications, participants can achieve many benefits, including:
- Lower network costs;
- Greater efficiency for participating entities;
- Interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing;
- Increased collaboration among all K-20 educational entities;
- New educational opportunities;
- Competitiveness with surrounding states; and
- Better use of public investments.

Action Plan

Current Action Items

1. **Identify Tier II communities that offer opportunities for aggregation for services onto the network.**

    N1aAction: The CAP will work with communities that express an interest in aggregating their public sector transport.

    Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

    Participating Entities: Specific communities, NITC Community Council, Nebraska League of Municipalities, Nebraska Association of County Officials, and public libraries

    Timeframe: ~~2008~~2010-2011

    Funding: No funding required for this action item.

    Status: Continuation as is

    N1bAction: The CAP will use the Network Nebraska website to showcase examples of successful public sector network and/or Internet service cooperation. CAP will encourage interaction and sharing between public entities.

    Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

    Participating Entities: NITC Community Council, ESU-NOC, Nebraska League of Municipalities, Nebraska Association of County Officials, public libraries

    Timeframe: ~~2008~~2010-2011

    Funding: No funding required for this action item.

    Status: ~~Continuation~~Discontinuation

2. The Chief Information Officer will continue the LB 1208 implementation by annually bidding infrastructure and connectivity for new regions of participants and developing the most cost-effective and efficient support structure possible for the statewide network.

    N2aAction: The Network Nebraska network design/support team will develop a memorandum of agreement with local and regional education entities in order to develop a cooperative support system for the statewide education network that will mitigate data transport and synchronous video problems.

    Lead: Network Nebraska **(**CAP)

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group (CAP), ESU-NOC, Higher education entities, NITC Education Council

Timeframe: ~~2008~~2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: Continuation as is

N2bAction: The Chief Information Officer will annually update the State master purchase contracts for edge devices ~~and codec equipment~~ and monitor the local site purchases of such equipment in order to promote and encourage network equipment ~~and codec equipment~~ standardization.

Lead: Chief Information Officer

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska (CAP), ESU-NOC

Timeframe: ~~2008-2009~~2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: Continuation with minor revisions

3. Offer Internet I services to eligible network participants.

N3aAction: The CAP will accept new orders for Internet service and continue to aggregate purchasing demand to secure a more economical price for statewide Internet service.

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

Participating Entities: NITC Education Council, ESU-NOC, Higher Education Entities

Timeframe: ~~2008-2009~~2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: Continuation as is

4. Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, multipurpose network.

N4aAction: Develop ~~an~~ appropriate participation criteria (e.g. type of entity, bandwidth expections) and a differential catalog of services and ~~bandwidth thresholds~~fees for Network Nebraska to serve ~~nonpublic K-12 and nonpublic higher education entities~~all network participants (i.e. public/nonpublic K-12, public/nonpublic higher education, museums, science centers, libraries, others).

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

Participating Entities: NITC Education Council, Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska, Nonpublic Schools of Nebraska
Timeframe: 2008-092010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: NewContinuation with minor revisions

N4bAction: Charter a work group to research advanced network services for Network Nebraska customersparticipants.

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group, NITC Education Council

Timeframe: 2008-092010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.
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Status: NewContinuation as is

N4cAction: Implement a statewide on-line presentation and meeting software solution.

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP), Technical Panel for needs assessment

Participating Entities: All NITC groups and sub groups

Timeframe: 2008-09

Funding: No funding required for this action item to initiate needs assessment phase, funding and cost recovery schedule needed for future implementation and service support

Status: NewDiscontinuation

N4dAction: Develop a formula for E-rate cost allocation that allows affordable fees for adult education and other ineligible population services to take place in K-12 settings.Develop an online E-rate cost allocation calculator that will enable K-12 and non-K-12 entities to estimate the ineligible telecommunications costs resulting from offering non-K-12 services in a K-12 facility.

Lead: Distance Education CouncilEducation Council Funding/Erate Task Group

Participating Entities: ~~DEC Advisory Committee~~Distance Education Council~~, NITC Education Council~~

Timeframe: ~~2008-09~~2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: ~~New~~ Continuation with minor revisions

N4e **Action:** Work to amend Nebraska Department of Education policies to include PreK as an eligible population for Universal Service Fund (Erate) purposes.

Lead: Nebraska Erate Coordinator

Participating Entities: Educational Service Units, State Board of Education, Nebraska Legislature

Timeframe: 2008-09

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: ~~New~~Discontinuation

N4f **Action:** Work to change the federal E-rate policies that create impediments and financial disincentives for collaborative usage of networks and videoconferencing by ineligible populations (~~P~~pre-K, adults, telehealth, etc…).

Lead: Nebraska E-rate Coordinator

Participating Entities: Educational Service Units, NITC Education Council

Timeframe: ~~2008-09~~2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: ~~New~~Continue as is

N4g **Action:** Create a Network Advisory Group and meeting structure for education entities to provide input to Network Nebraska (CAP).

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

Participating Entities: NITC Education Council, Educational Service Units, Public and nonpublic higher education entities

Timeframe: 2008-09

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: ~~New~~Completed

N4hAction: Review the Network Nebraska governance and leadership structure.

Lead: Network Nebraska (CAP)

Participating Entities: NITC Education Council, Educational Service Units, Public and nonpublic higher education entities.

Timeframe: 2008-09

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: ~~New~~Completed

N4iAction: Annually reissue the Network Nebraska Marketing Survey and subsequent Report to help steer the strategic direction of Network Nebraska—Education.

Lead: Education Council Marketing Task Group

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group.

Timeframe: 2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: New

N4jAction: Annually update the Network Nebraska Marketing Plan.

Lead: Education Council Marketing Task Group

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group.

Timeframe: 2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: New

N4kAction: Research and pursue grant writing that would assist with the deployment of statewide technology services.

Lead: Education Council Marketing Task Group

Participating Entities: Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group, ESU Coordinating Council.

Timeframe: 2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: New

N4IAction: Review the viability and effectiveness of the Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group and make appropriate changes to affect its structure, membership and meeting frequency.

Lead: Education Council

Participating Entities: Chief Information Officer

Timeframe: 2010-2011

Funding: No funding required for this action item.

Status: New