

# DEVELOPMENT UPDATE BULLETIN

MAY 2008

## CALLS

### Local Loop Unbundling

JANET(UK) will be issuing a Call for Interest relating to the use of the local loop unbundling (LLU) mechanism for the provision of Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)-based connectivity.

This call will be seeking both an individual organisation (perhaps with direct experience) to write a technology review document for DSL via the unbundling route, and a regional network operator to participate in a detailed survey of current and future connection prospects in their area with a view to identifying clusters of target educational sites.

It is expected that this document will be released in June 2008: watch for announcements on the web at <http://www.ja.net/llu>

### JANET Collaborate survey

The JANET Collaborate Prototype web site was launched on October 2007 as part of the JANET Collaborate pilot project. It has been in use for more than 6 months by staff at Schools, Colleges, Universities, Museums and other educational institutions.

As part of the pilot we are interested in collecting opinions and feedback from the users of the prototype site. This information will help us to specify a second stage of development to further extend the features and improve the service offered by JANET Collaborate. If you are a user of JANET Collaborate then this is your opportunity to influence the next stage of development and help to make the site more useful for yourself and other users.

To complete the survey, please go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2X0mU2B\\_2bQKSgIS\\_2f83e5nQg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2X0mU2B_2bQKSgIS_2f83e5nQg_3d_3d). It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and your contribution to the pilot will be greatly appreciated. Please submit your response before Friday 23 May, when the survey will close.

Thank you in advance for your time in completing the survey.

The prototype website can be found at <http://www.janetcollaborate.ac.uk/>

### JANET IPv6 Briefing Event

JANET(UK) are holding an IPv6 briefing event at Lakeside Centre, **Aston University in Birmingham on 11th June 2008**. The event will include a range of presentations that will provide an insight into the state of IPv6 both within and outside JANET; guidance on how to cope within a mixed IPv4/IPv6 environment; along with case studies on the planning and deployment of native IPv6 unicast and multicast services on a site and regional network.

This event is aimed at managers within the JANET Community who are responsible for authorising and planning the deployment of network services on their organisation's infrastructure.

For further details about this event, including the programme and online booking form please visit:

<http://www.ja.net/services/events/2008/ipv6/index.html>

## NEW SERVICES/PROJECTS

### Special Interest Group

JANET(UK) has formed an IPTV Special Interest Group whose role will be to help understand how JANET connected sites are dealing with IPTV in their organisational strategies, and in turn what JANET(UK) needs to do to support this. To keep up to date with what is going on in this area, please join the IPTV mailing list at <http://www.ja.net/iptv>

### Measurement & Monitoring - 2nd Generation JANET Netsight – Rollout Nears

JANET Netsight is a system providing visibility of current and past performance of JANET. It is principally available to JANET primary connected sites and the Regional Network Organisations.

The original system was deployed in 2002, and has proved very popular. However, the changing needs of the JANET community and of JANET(UK) have driven demand for a new system. As a result JANET(UK) have been working with an external software house to develop the second generation Netsight.

JANET(UK) are now preparing for the summer release of the new system. For further details, please see the Netsight pages at <http://www.ja.net/measurement-monitoring>

### Mobile IP

JANET(UK) has launched an early release of a new mobile IP test platform. It is a liveCD Linux-based release that is pre-configured with mobile IP functionality and relevant testing tools. Created by Lancaster University as part of the JANET mobile IP trial programme, it will allow testing of MIPv6 functionality both as an easily-deployed Home Agent and as a Mobile Node, and will be used by participants as part of the ongoing mobile IP trials. A link to the alpha release is available now at <http://www.ja.net/mobile-ip>. Future updates will also be linked from there.

### JANET Collaborate Videoconferencing Partnering Programme

As a new feature of the JANET Collaborate prototype, we have introduced a new videoconferencing partnering programme for schools and colleges.

The JANET Collaborate VC Partner opportunities are open to all schools and colleges in the UK and abroad. The first partnership has already been formed between Year 1 classes from schools in Wigan and Exeter.

Teachers and lecturers can find the VC Partner opportunities on JANET Collaborate by searching for the term "partner"

on the JANET Collaborate site, or by using the link below.

<http://www.janetcollaborate.ac.uk/search?SearchableText=vc+partner>

To find out more about how to find yourself a videoconference partner read the full news story on JANET Collaborate.

<http://www.janetcollaborate.ac.uk/news/janet-collaborate-vc-partners-find-a-videoconference-partner-school-or-college-on-janet-collaborate>

## Videoconferencing Recording And Streaming

See Videoconferencing update in the 'Projects Update' section.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### JANET Talk

A call for participation in the first phase of JANET Talk trials went out at the beginning of the year and we now have 110 institutions signed up to the trial, using over 7000 licences. Participants come from all sectors of the JANET community and will be using the client for a whole range of different uses. The trial is currently at the commissioning stage, with the full launch of phase one expected to take place during late May.

Other JANET connected organisations will have the opportunity to join the trial following a second call which will be issued shortly. To keep abreast of developments in this area, please visit <http://www.ja.net/talk>

### Supporting Research on JANET

JANET Aurora was launched in February this year to provide a platform for photonics and optical systems research. University College London (UCL), and the Universities of Essex and Cambridge have equipped the network infrastructure with their experimental equipment and are actively using it to support two major projects called Phosphorous and HIPNet.

#### Phosphorus

This project addresses some of the key technical challenges in enabling on-demand, end-to-end network and IT services across multiple heterogeneous domains.

The aim of the project is to develop integration between application middleware and transport networks based on service plane, network resource provisioning plane and control plane. The project deliverables will include a Phosphorous toolkit which will be disseminated to NRENs and their users.

#### HIPNET

This project is one of the largest telecommunications projects, funded by the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry). The objective of the project is 'design, modelling and validation (through test-bed realisation) of next-generation heterogeneous IP services across heterogeneous wired and wireless networks.' The project is a true cross-sector collaboration involving both academic and industrial partners as well as an advisory panel of telecoms experts and end-users.

To find out more, please visit the JANET Aurora web pages: <http://www.ja.net/aurora>

## 802.1X

Trials for the 802.1X supplicant started in February this year. Six JANET connected sites are participating in the deployment, testing and reporting for this project. It is hoped the supplicant will be deployed in the test organisations before the summer so that testing can be done during the summer holidays in time for the new term.

Due to user requirements for multi-platform capabilities, the OpenSEA Alliance now plans to add Vista, Linux and Mac ports to the supplicant – The OpenSEA Alliance manages the development of the supplicant.

Following a recent board meeting for the OpenSEA Alliance which develops the 802.1X supplicant, Mark Tysom and Louis Searchwell of JANET(UK) were nominated to join Henry Hughes as board members. The additional presence on the board will support JANET's existing role in the project and strengthen their involvement in shaping the development of the supplicant. Elections will take place on 22nd May 2008.

Further details of the supplicant can be found at <http://www.ja.net/802.1x>

## Shibboleth on Windows

Earlier this year a call for participation went out to JANET connected organisations to test a Shibboleth installer for the MS-Windows platform. The trial is now well underway and the 6 sites taking part are now in a position to provide feedback on the software. A full launch of the installer will take place around mid August, along with accompanying documentation. Anyone interested in finding out more, please go to: <http://www.ja.net/development/middleware/shibboleth-on-windows.html>

## Videoconferencing update

JANET Videoconferencing Service (JVCS) is in the process of adding improved features and services to their existing service provision

This includes more flexible management tools already available in the Booking Service, and anticipated new features for this year. These features include:

- an overhaul of the Booking System's current user interface to improve usability
- an integration of the JVCS and On-Demand services.
- plans to introduce a recurrent booking feature in the next month or so for users who have regular meetings.

JANET is currently running a procurement to replace the JVCS core infrastructure which should see a replacement of one of the MCUs this year. The new equipment is expected to incorporate new features such as High Definition capabilities, and improved data-sharing.

JANET Videoconferencing Recording and Streaming is a new facility that would allow users to record and/or stream live events then once completed, download the recording to their system for future use. Procurement of this service is currently taking place and will depend upon equipment suitability and costs. Information on JVCS is available on: <http://www.ja.net/jvcs>

## NEW DOCUMENTATION

### New QoS (Quality of Service) Technical guide

JANET(UK) is in the process of releasing a QoS on JANET Technical Guide, written in conjunction with the partners of the JANET QoS Development Project. The guide provides technical guidance to administrators within Regional Networks and end sites who are considering the deployment and operation of QoS in their networks. The document will be available shortly on <http://www.ja.net/qos>

## IPTV

On 30th April, Loughborough University used JANET to broadcast live coverage of its annual Real Varsity rugby match. LSUTV (Loughborough's student TV) and Loughborough University's IT and Media Services departments collaborated to broadcast both matches with live commentary, interviews and analysis. The event was streamed over two unicast Quicktime MPEF4 streams (768kb/s and 1.5Mb/s) and a single 3Mb/s H.264 multicast stream. For the full story, please visit: <http://www.ja.net/company/news-2008/rugby.html>

## Shibboleth 2.0

In March this year Internet2 announced the release of version 2 of the Shibboleth software.

Shibboleth is the most widely used federated access management software for the UK federation, and allows organisations to achieve single sign-on to protected on-line resources. So far the majority of member organisations have been using version 1.3, which is currently the recommended version for use within the UK federation, but it is intended that version 2.0 of the software will make deployment much easier. Updated information will be made available on the UK federation website [www.ukfederation.org.uk](http://www.ukfederation.org.uk)

The new Shibboleth release consists of revised service provider and re-written identity provider software which includes improved interoperability with commercial and open source federation solutions. Shibboleth 2.0 is intended to be backwards-compatible with the previous release (1.3) but not with older versions. This includes version 1.2 which reaches its official end-of-life on 19th May 2008; any UK federation members still using 1.2 are strongly recommended to migrate to a higher version of the software.

For further information, please visit the Internet2 website <http://shibboleth.internet2.edu/shib-v2.0.html>

## UK federation

On April 15th the UK federation welcomed its 300th member. Yorkshire and Humber Grid for Learning Foundation (YHGFL) joined the growing number of organisations in the schools sector who are joining the federation.

JISC Collections predict that at least 72% of the content services that they procure will be available within the federation by the end of July 2008 and already 80% of Becta's schools Learning Platform providers have deployed UK Access Management Federation technology with the remainder committed to become members.

For further information visit <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>

## JANET Collaborate –Videoconferencing User Group Meeting

On 21st April, the second Videoconferencing User Group meeting took place. The event organised by Heather Pettit from South East Grid for Learning, and sponsored by JANET(UK), was held at the National Maritime Museum with attendees from content providers and educational organisations. The programme included updates on VC usage across JANET with a massive 20,000 VCs expected to take place by the end of the year. Both attendees and presenters outlined the activities taking place within their organisations, making the event a perfect platform for exploring the various opportunities available; there was also a link up to a videoconferencing user group in America where further opportunities were offered and the UK group were given the chance to learn from the US experiences. Out of the meeting came the suggestion to roll-out the 'London Live' event to a wider audience, and talk of activities in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. To find out more visit <http://www.ja.net/company/news-2008/vc-group-meeting-210408.html>

## NETWORKSHOP 36

JANET(UK) recently hosted Networkshop 36 at the University of Strathclyde. The programme covered a wide array of subjects with speakers from academic organisations as well as invited commercial speakers and JANET technical specialists. Plans are now underway for next year's event which will take place at The University of Cambridge. All presentations were filmed at this year's event; these and other Networkshop material are available on the newly launched Networkshop Online facility of EdLab. See below for further details of this facility.

## TRAINING

### EdLab

EdLab is a new online collaboration and learning site being provided by JANET Training. The site is open to anyone from the JANET community and provides a range of tools and content relating to academic networking and JANET. Resources include interactive flash animations, simulations, audio content (to play and download), video clips and links to technical documents. Presentations from this year's Networkshop are available as video presentations and audio downloads.

You can register for EdLab at [www.ja.net/training/edlab](http://www.ja.net/training/edlab)

### UK federation training courses

JANET Training have published several dates at venues across the UK for their two access management courses: *Introduction to the UK Federation* and *Implementing Shibboleth at your Organisation*. For further details, please visit: <http://www.ja.net/training>