

Subject: Subgroup mandate
From: Christian Helft <helft@lal.in2p3.fr>
Date: Fri, 13 Jun 2003 00:06:23 +0200
To: Tobias Haas <tobias.haas@desy.de>

Tobias,

Regarding the subgroup mandate :

Perhaps we could call this subgroup "Computer supported collaborative work". I remember having reported on this subject to HepCCC some years ago. I see videoconferencing only as one piece of all the means that can help us, as a world wide disseminated community, to work together more efficiently.

That being said, I think videoconferencing per se is not satisfactorily managed today within HEP and deserves a special attention now. That's why I found the mandate, as you stated it first, relevant.

Said in other words, I'm not against extending the scope of the subgroup to CSCW, but I think that it (the subgroup) should focus on "classic" videoconferencing first, and try to make recommendations in order to make it more effective than it is today (how long have you been waiting today while establishing a connection that allows real work ? I personally find the present situation unacceptable).

So the mandate could be rephrased to take into account the whole picture, and mention videoconferencing as a first goal to achieve.

I'm afraid I'm unable in such a short time to even enumerate the other fields involved in CSCW. Mail is probably not a problem anymore 😊, we did the Web 😊. Cern made a good job for meeting organization, but what about collaborative document writing, distributed project management, collective web publishing, ... ?

Returning to more practical subjects, I would call the complements to videoconferencing that have been mentioned this afternoon "electronic assistance to meetings" (videoconferenced or not). I think this is a trade mark of Hans Frese, but I'm not sure 😊.

So much for tonight.

Best regards,

Christian.

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