

**DALNET Steering Committee**  
**July 9, 2001**  
**Wayne State University**

**Present:** R. Call, J. Flaherty, G. Libbey, A. Lim, S. Muir, M. Piper, K. Sanders

**Minutes** from March 5 and April 9, 2001 approved.

**The Steering Committee thanks** Karen Bacsanyi for her service as a member and welcomes Adrienne Lim as her replacement.

**DALNET Staffing:**

- SYBASE Administrator starts today.
- Web Applications developer position advertised.
- Secretary's position was advertised and candidate interviews begin shortly.
- A search committee exists for the Assistant Director position. M. Piper is working on the job description.
- Systems Librarian position description is being updated prior to advertising.
- DALNET's open positions should not impact IPAC installation. Adrienne Lim agreed to act as lead person for this install.

**MiLE report:**

- Fretwell-Downing and *epixtech*, presented/demonstrated their products. Neither vendor showed their product to advantage.
- After further discussion, MiLE Steering Committee "senses" URSA is the best product. (URSA without iPAC, RPA, iSelect or other additions referenced in *epixtech*'s presentation.)
- MiLE knows of happy URSA users.
- URSA will have access to RSS gateway to OCLC.
- MiLE Steering Committee will recommend URSA and expects TLN's board to accept that recommendation.
- The MiLE server will reside at TLN.
- DALNET expects donating its URSA license and URSA maintenance budget to MiLE project.
- Because of this donation, All DALNET members will be able to join MiLE without further cost.
- MiLE's implementation will be DALNET's ILL enhancement.
- **DALNET Steering Committee endorses this action.**

**Horizon updates:**

- Version 8.0 renamed by *epixtech* as 7.3.
- *Epixtech* is preparing a more detailed proposal for the **Patron Database enhancement**.
- For **Remote Patron Authentication enhancement**, DALNET needs a proxy server implementation.
- **Shared Authority enhancement** will be delivered after version 7.2.
- The **Children's OPAC enhancement** is now in iPAC version 2.0. It will require Horizon 7.0 installation.
- **Integrated Booking Module enhancement** requires re-writing current functionality to be more feature rich. This comes in version 7.3.
- For **Interlibrary Loan Document Delivery enhancement**, Horizon is almost compatible with OCLC. DoCLINE is less clear due to NLM focusing on Endeavor implementation.
- For DALNET to release payment for DPL and WSU data loads, *epixtech* agreed to re-write Horizon's authority loader. The timeline for delivery is uncertain: *epixtech* has mentioned version 7.2. (*epixtech* is writing programs to clean data bases, but DALNET would need to run them periodically until *epixtech* corrects the loader.)

**Horizon timelines:**

- Only three test databases remain to be converted to version 6.0.
- Concern was expressed about the time necessary to install on each workstation. Version 6.0 is too large for a diskette. (WSU has builds 26 and 28 on CD.)
- Test installation for iPAC 1.0 scheduled for early August with *epixtech* staff on site.
- Adrienne Lim chairs a working group creating standards for DALNET implementation of iPAC. DALNET would like the Webmaster on board before production implementation.
- Both WebPAC and iPAC will run on the same server.
- Conversion of subfield v happens after iPAC implementation. (iPAC required to display subfield v.)
- By the time all the above completes, DALNET projects having both version 7.0 and 7.2. We will consider installing both versions at once on servers and only 7.2 on the clients.

**Partnership status:**

- "Cautiously optimistic".
- Regular conference calls with *epixtech* and monthly updates on *epixtech's* product development plans help improve communication.
- On-site visits such as the iPAC test installation help, too. With the planned iPAC visit, our staff experiments while *epixtech* staff is there to explain what happened. DALNET staff hopes to learn enough to be able to bring DALNET members up by ourselves at later dates.
- We will reserve the opportunity for *epixtech* staff to come back, however. DALNET's track record is to find problems in later implementations. Every install can be different because software other than Horizon also running.

**Horizon Assessment and the Steering Committee's role:**

An assessment process is underway at Wayne State. WSU developed questions and is holding focus groups for staff members by module. The Steering Committee encourages other DALNET members to also conduct assessments. This process supports DALNET's commitment to jointly plan with *epixtech*.

The Steering Committee sees its roles as:

- identify themes in the assessment results (where should this product go)
- flesh out these themes by confirming them with our customers
- assess and prioritize themes from the assessment versus Rider H priorities and contracted enhancements
- meet with *epixtech* about new/changed priorities
- feedback to customers

This is a pilot process. It can be iterative. It could grow into annual or every-other-year assessments of our progress with Horizon.

**Planning for the Board Retreat:**

The Board invites the Steering Committee to participate in the July 23 Board planning retreat. A facilitator, Lou Wetherbee, will guide the retreat in assessing DALNET's progress and where it should go in the future. The retreat lasts all day. It will be held at the Marriott Dearborn Inn Hotel.

**Next Meeting:**

August 13, 2001 at Detroit Public Library in the Rutzen Room.

Minutes prepared by J. Randolph Call.