



February/March 2011

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Top Five Reasons to Register or Present at GPN2011

1. Excellent keynote presentations from Alan Blatecky (NSF) and Michael Wesch (KSU).
2. Outstanding speakers from other regions like Joe Mambretti from Northwestern University and MREN.
3. Stimulating exhibits from our sponsors.
4. Excellent opportunity to relax with friends.
5. Graduate student poster and presentation competition.

Register and sign up for presentations at <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/great-plains-network/>

State Visits, Nebraska and Missouri

On December 7 and 8, 2010 Bill Mitchell and Greg Monaco made their first state visit to Nebraska and held 8 meetings. About 60 people attended, across the day and a half. The purpose of the visit was to increase the awareness of GPN and the services available; and to gain a better understanding of the local environment, projects and initiatives where GPN may be able to provide some assistance.

There were faculty and staff from

- University of Nebraska Lincoln,
- University of Nebraska Omaha,
- University of Nebraska Medical Center,
- Creighton University,
- Wayne State College,

as well as participants from community colleges, Network Nebraska, state educational service units and the Peter Kiewit Institute. The aggressive schedule was put together by Michael Ruhrdanz, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Thanks to Michael for arranging a highly diverse and interesting set of meetings.

Next was a visit to Missouri. On December 21, 2010, Bill and Greg met, virtually, with CIOs of the four Missouri GPN campuses and John Gillespie, Executive Director of MOREnet. They discussed GPN’s mission, services and role in facilitating inter-campus collaboration and CI. There were a number of questions regarding linkages between campus, state networks and national organizations, including The Quilt and Internet2. GPN’s role of helping the region attain greater national prominence

and foster economic growth was also a topic of conversation.

Thanks to all who have participated. Contact your GPN Executive Council member to arrange a visit to your State.

Map of Projects Using Regional and National Networks

Recently, GPN sent out a holiday card with a graphic depicting some of the projects that use regional and national networks. We'd like to get a more complete picture of large-scale projects in the region that make use of advanced networking and/or cyberinfrastructure. *We need your help!* Please send project names and logos that you think belong on this graphic to kate@greatplains.net or greg@greatplains.net. As we update the graphic, we'll include it in our communications, on our web site and in presentations about our consortium.



New GPN Network Working Groups by Kate Adams

Brad Fleming, chair of the GPN Technical Committee states, "In general, I think GPN's leadership has done a great job of identifying main areas of focus then breaking those into short-term working groups. GPN faces many challenges in the coming year but its members seem ready to offer expertise and time to solve the issues. It also impresses me how well the GPN members work for a greater good for everyone in the region."

How will GPN meet the challenges? The 2010 Network Planning Project (NPP) has been recently completed. One of the outcomes were five strategic recommendations:

Recommendation 1: *Appoint a Network Program Review Committee (NPRC) to review and recommend changes to the overall network program structure, membership, operating guidelines, etc. to align with current/desired practice.*

Recommendation 2: *Appoint a working-group to review existing network policies and operating procedures and recommend any needed changes and additions.*

Recommendation 3: *Expand the GPN Peering Exchange to include, when feasible, commodity Internet and direct peering with other RONS and with local, regional and national commercial peers.*

Recommendation 4: *Review GPN's current equipment configurations and make changes where there is sufficient value to the membership.*

Recommendation 5: *Appoint a working group to explore the cost/benefit of a GPN fiber connection from Level 3 (1100 Walnut) to the Midwest Internet Hub and Collocation Facility (1102 Grand) to take advantage of services available in the Grand Building.*

There were working groups formed to implement these five recommendations. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the head of the group.

Network Program Committee (NPC) Review, Bill Mitchell (bill@greatplains.net)

Network Policy/Procedure, Rex Peterson (peteronrw@more.net)

GPN Peering Exchange, Hank Niederhelm (hank@more.net)

Equipment Futures, Von Royal (von@onenet.net)

1102 Grand Pop, David Farmer (farmer@umn.edu)

Providing Support to Community, Technical, Tribal and Four-Year Colleges by Greg Monaco

On my recent visit to Nebraska, I had a chance to meet with community college members of the Network Nebraska leadership. As you may know, many other entities, including 2- and 4-year colleges, send Internet traffic over the Great Plains facility and via Internet2. This is because they are *sponsored education participants*. The meetings in Nebraska gave me a chance to gauge interest in forming a community of interest/support system for these colleges.

I sent out an email to the GPN community and was overwhelmed by the response. I *heard from several state network representatives* who are interested in this issue. My email asked about community college interest, and I received responses asking about *technical colleges, tribal colleges and 4-year, non-PhD granting institutions*.

My email circulated beyond our community, and I *heard from other regional and national groups* who mentioned the timeliness of this effort. I heard from *a National Park Service site* interested in providing real-time educational content to community college classrooms!

As a result, *GPN is forming a small college/community college community of interest*, to include *community, technical, tribal and other colleges* with similar technical and educational issues and interests. Perhaps we will break down into other, more specialized groups. Members of this group will, of course, be welcome in any other GPN community interest group. *If you are interested* in being a part of this group and have not contacted me, *please drop me a message* at greg@greatplains.net to include you on this list. *Please feel free to circulate this information to others who might be interested.*

Data Management and the GPN Community: Anatomy of a Project ***by Greg Monaco***

The National Science Foundation has a deadline to require all research proposals to have a data management plan. As the deadline drew near in mid-January, there was ever increasing interest among GPN membership to learn how others were planning to meet this requirement. In December we held a preliminary teleconference of the GPN Data Management interest group and Ron Roeber (UNL) discussed plans to implement a data storage service for researchers across campus. Interested parties represented a unique blend of research, technical and library expertise. At that initial meeting it was discussed that it would be useful to build on this momentum. Another outcome was a repository of links at the GPN Wiki to other efforts to tackle this problem (http://collaboration.greatplains.net/wiki/index.php/Research_Advisory_Board:_NSF_Data_Management).

In January the group met again to discuss developing a plan for a region-wide data management test bed and data management plan. A core project team was rapidly built and a proposal is now being finalized that involves multiple GPN universities (KSU, MU, SDSU, Tulsa, UNL), a partnership with the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) in Kansas City, and is spear-headed by Deb Ludwig and Rick McMullen (KU). Elements of the proposal capitalize on the unique combination of expertise that was present in that very first teleconference: Library, Research and Technical. It has been a pleasure to work with this talented group.

My First Android App or How I Spent My Weekend! ***by Greg Monaco***

Over the weekend I decided to figure out how to create an application or “app” for my Android cell phone. I learned about Eclipse and watched a video on it. I looked around some more and found Google Labs AppInventor (appinventor.googlelabs.com), an online user interface that allows you to develop and package apps.

My first app is one called Hello Purr. I followed the AppInventor instructions and created and installed an app on my phone that, when activated, displays some text and a big button with a picture of a kitty: Press the kitty and the phone meows and vibrates. My third app is available at the GPN Collaboration website: <http://collaboration.greatplains.net/wiki/index.php/Image:GPN%282%29.apk>. This app is just a series of buttons with short cuts to the GPN web site, GPN wiki and the new Confluence wiki that we are developing. You can download it and install it on any phone or device with the Android operating system.

If you have any apps that you’ve developed for the iPhone or the Android OS, please let us know!

Upcoming Meetings

January, 2010

- **Joint Techs:** [Winter Meeting, January 30 – February 3, 2011 in Clemson, South Carolina](#)

February, 2011

- [Network Performance Workshop, February 2-3 in Clemson, South Carolina](#)
- [IPv6 Workshop](#), February 2-4 in Clemson, South Carolina
- [EDUCAUSE Institute Management Program, February 7-11 in Tempe, AZ](#)
- [ELI 2011 Annual Meeting](#), February 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

March, 2011

- **Educause:** [Midwest Regional Conference](#), March 14-16, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

April, 2011

- [Spring 2011 Internet2 Member Meeting, April 18-20, in Arlington, Virginia](#)

June, 2011

- [GPN Annual Meeting](#), June 1-3, 2011 in Kansas City, MO

To Contribute to the Newsletter

To contribute a story or to announce an upcoming meeting or event, send your contribution to Bill Mitchell (bill@greatplains.net), Greg Monaco (greg@greatplains.net) or Kate Adams (kate@greatplains.net)

About the Great Plains Network

The Great Plains Network membership includes research and education institutions in nine states. GPN supports high-performance networking and cyberinfrastructure on behalf of this membership. GPN also supports multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary research and education initiatives that require advanced cyberinfrastructure.

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