

Client/Server Demonstrations

Report to the Board by the
DALNET Partnership Team
May 29, 1997

Charge to the Team

Arrange structured demonstrations
for 3 to 5 leading client/server
library information systems

Purpose of the Demonstrations

- ◆ Determine if currently available systems had critical features needed by DALNET
- ◆ Determine if Horizon is a viable system for DALNET
- ◆ Educate DALNET library staff

Here Is What We DID

- ◆ Determined system requirements
- ◆ Identified systems to consider
- ◆ Developed structured demonstrations
- ◆ Evaluated the results

Appendix Version for Dept. Gen.

DALNET's Requirements

- ◆ Based on users' growing expectations
 - with shift from print to digital
 - with explosion of Internet
- ◆ Based on users' needs
 - save time and effort
 - ease of use
 - 24 hour availability
 - remote access

Critical Components in a Consortium Environment

- ◆ Specialized user interfaces
- ◆ Resource sharing and access
- ◆ Gateway capabilities
- ◆ Cooperative collection and database management
- ◆ Report writer
- ◆ Media booking

Technical Requirements

- ◆ Client/server based
- ◆ Installed and operational
- ◆ Microcomputer workstations
- ◆ TCP/IP communications protocols
- ◆ Scalability for DALNET

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Why Client/Server?

- ◆ Mainframe technology too costly to operate and upgrade
- ◆ Migration to desktop computers with Internet connectivity
- ◆ Client/server library system development

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Systems Considered*

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ◆ Ameritech Library Services | ◆ Geac |
| ◆ CARL Corporation | ◆ Innovative Interfaces |
| ◆ Data Research Associates | ◆ SIRSI |
| ◆ Endeavor | ◆ VTLS |
- *No foreign vendors were considered

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Systems Eliminated

- ◆ Endeavor (Voyager)
 - client/server
 - installed and operational
 - markets only to academic and research libraries
- ◆ Geac and VTLS (Virtua)
 - critical modules of client/server systems not yet developed

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More Systems Eliminated

- ◆ CARL Corporation
 - client/server system not being developed
- ◆ Data Research Associates (DRA Classic)
 - new system in development for Illinois consortium and UCLA in 1997
 - not far enough along to demonstrate

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Systems Demonstrated

- ◆ Ameritech Library Services
 - Horizon
- ◆ Innovative Interfaces
 - Innopac
- ◆ SIRSI
 - Unicom

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Structured Demonstrations

- ◆ List of specific tasks to perform
 - based on 43 scenarios
 - scheduled for 2 days
- ◆ Evaluation forms for attendees

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Scenario Development

- ◆ Based on DALNET's requirements
- ◆ Focus on multi-type consortium
- ◆ Drafted by 32 experts from 7 DALNET libraries

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DALNET Library Participation

- ◆ Staff from 17 out of 20 DALNET libraries
- ◆ Horizon and Innopac demos at WSU
 - almost 50 people
- ◆ SIRSI demo at Macomb
 - 34 people

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Overall Staff Response

	Horizon	Innovative	SIRSI
Serials/Acq	4.4	3.7	4.4
Auth/Cat	3.9	4.5	4.5
Circ/Booking	4.2	3.8	4.2
ILL/Doc.Del.	4.5	5.5	5.1
User Interface	5.3	4.1	3.8
Gateway	5.5	4.6	5.9
Elec.Pub/Databases	4.8	5.6	5.1
Reports	5.4	3.6	5.4
Workstation Integ.	4.8	3.8	7.0
Average score	4.7	4.3	5.0

Note: the lower numbers are better.

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7.0 top number

Findings

- ◆ Currently available systems all need critical components to meet DALNET's system requirements

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Critical Components Needed By All Three Systems

- ◆ User interface improvements
- ◆ Circulation for a consortium
- ◆ User authentication for a gateway
- ◆ ILL functionality
- ◆ Media booking module

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Technical Requirements

	Horizon	Innovative	SIRSI
Client/server	Yes	No	Yes
Installed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Microcomputers	Yes	Yes	Yes
TCP/IP	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scaleable	Yes	Yes	No

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Best Alternative--Horizon

- ◆ Client/server
- ◆ Installed and operational
- ◆ Scaleable--benchmarked for Indiana U.
 - 7 million bibliographic records
 - 850 simultaneous users
- ◆ With the needed enhancements

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Horizon Enhancements

- ◆ Patron database
- ◆ Authentication system for users
- ◆ Shared authority file
- ◆ Children's OPAC
- ◆ Management reports
- ◆ Integrated booking module
- ◆ ILL/Document delivery

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Enhancement Commitment

- ◆ By Ameritech's CEO and Product Manager
- ◆ DALNET's participation
 - writing specifications
 - evaluating and testing prototypes

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*something capabilities
- use different terms*

*- change presentation
for presentation to respective institutions*