

InterNetworking Peru

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Abstract

A project to help Peruvian universities develop local and international institutional linkages using cost effective internetworking technology. Emphasis will be placed on development of a plan for use of appropriate and affordable state-of-the-art technology to change Peru into a fully internetworked academic environment. The work product of the project will be an "InterNetworking Plan", internetworking user and administration training, and if necessary the installation of a minimal "demonstration" internetwork.

Overview

Peruvian universities need help in planning for the development of interconnected networks of computer systems. There are organizations, agencies, and individuals already supporting pieces of this effort. Last year a consortium of university science departments and institutions was formed to promote and develop a "Peruvian Scientific Network". The scientific network comprises one part of the larger problem of building an "academic" network.

The financial resources available to Peruvian universities for purchase of new equipment are extremely limited. To prevent haphazard and inefficient deployment of networking and internetworking technology a plan is needed for the coordination of resources and policies. A high level plan providing for all academic needs should attract the widest support from sources of funding for academic development.

Internetworking is a service based on recent technologies providing benefits to all members of an academic community. Everyone is a potential user of the services it provides. To make sure the new service is understood and used effectively the appropriate training and documentation must be available.

Plan Development

This would involve consultation with university administrators, faculty, and staff to determine present equipment, operational environments, support staffing, and budgets. The initial gathering of information would lead to the development of an initial plan for developing and Peruvian academic internetwork.

The plan and the policies established as a result would create an environment promoting the installation of academic networks and their interconnection. The actual installation and operation of each component of the plan could be spread out over many years. The rate at which the plan can be carried out will depend on the availability of funding and the cost of networking technology at the time funding becomes available..

Training

Technical training courses for users are needed to introduce internetworking concepts and to make them familiar with the primary services and benefits. The small group of people involved in the installation, administration, and maintenance of the service need introduction to the technology and the resources provided to help them support high quality internetworking.

Using a small network (LAN) of computer systems a few short courses and technical seminars involving hands-on activities would be held. In addition to being a technical introduction this would also be an example of the types of technical training needed in support of internetworking.

Installation

Should a small network of computer systems not be available for the hands-on short courses, a temporary one could be constructed. The minimum configuration would involve three computer systems physically connected using Thin-Ethernet technology. The installation and operation of this network would become a part of the hands-on training provided.