SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

COMPUTING DIVISION

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CAMBRIDGE RING
Protocol Specification Group Meeting 23 March 82

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DCS 593

COMPUTER BOARD AND RESEARCH COUNCILS

JOINT NETWORK TEAM

Report on Cambridge Ring Protocol Specification Group Meeting
at Proctor House, London
23rd March 1982

Present

K S Heard, JNT (Chairman)
C J Adams, RAL
I N Dallas, University of Kent
A Hinchley, LNT
M A Johnson, Cambridge University
J Larmouth, Salford University
K Lewis, Oxford University
T Morgan, SDL
E Oskiewicz, Toltec
M Roberts, Toltec
J H Sexton, ICL
M Shand, Kingston Polytechnic
W P Sharpe, RAL
D Wanless, Keele
P Wright, Marconi Research Centre
S Binns, University of Kent
F Panzieri, University of Newcastle
G Morrow, BTRL
I Wison, CAP
W Lees, Logica

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were accepted.

2. FUTURE STANDARDISATION ACTIVITIES

JNT/SERC are currently cooperating with industry in an attempt to set up a standardisation program for the next generation of slotted rings. Such a program will provide the opportunity for a complete rethink of protocols; thus the current activity should aim for consolidation of the present definitions with the minimum disruption.

Mr Larmouth proposed a re-examination of the feasability of running X25 over the ring and agreed to produce a proposal.

3. TSBSP

(1) The relationship between BSP and TSBSP and the options of enveloping or piggy-backing were discussed. It was agreed that TSBSP will be defined as piggy-backed on BSP and that piggy backing will be required in the definition where at present it is optional. eg The CONNECT parameters must make use of all the available space in the

Open packet. The exception to this rule will be ACCEPT since a responder will require the full called address before sending the ACCEPT parameters.

The specification will clearly distinguish BSP and TSBSP as two sublayers each having a protocol specification and a service specification.

(2) The maximum size of Open and Openack packets is to be 128 octets.

(3) The extended window option will be removed to an annex.

(4) Name server protocols will not be part of the specification but may be considered by this group. Definitions of current usage will be circulated.

(5) Ringpro/22: M Johnson will consider whether there is a simple way of fixing the problem with EXPEDITE in order to meet the service specification. Proposals (a), (b) and (c) were accepted; (d) was rejected.

(6) The relation between control messages and PUSH needs to be understood and clarified. Where a control message spans more than one packet the message identifier will only appear in the first.

4. Editorial Progression of TSBSP

The next draft will be produced by I Dallas with assistance from Logica, Marconi and J Larmouth and will be circulated by 30th April.

5. BBP

Current definition is Ringpro/21.

(1) Blipping will not be obligatory.

(2) It is uncertain what accuracy will be demanded of timers. The paper by C Kennington assumes 30%. J Larmouth will produce firm proposals in the next draft.

NEXT MEETING

10.30 am Fri 7th May

Room 414 2-12 Gresham Street