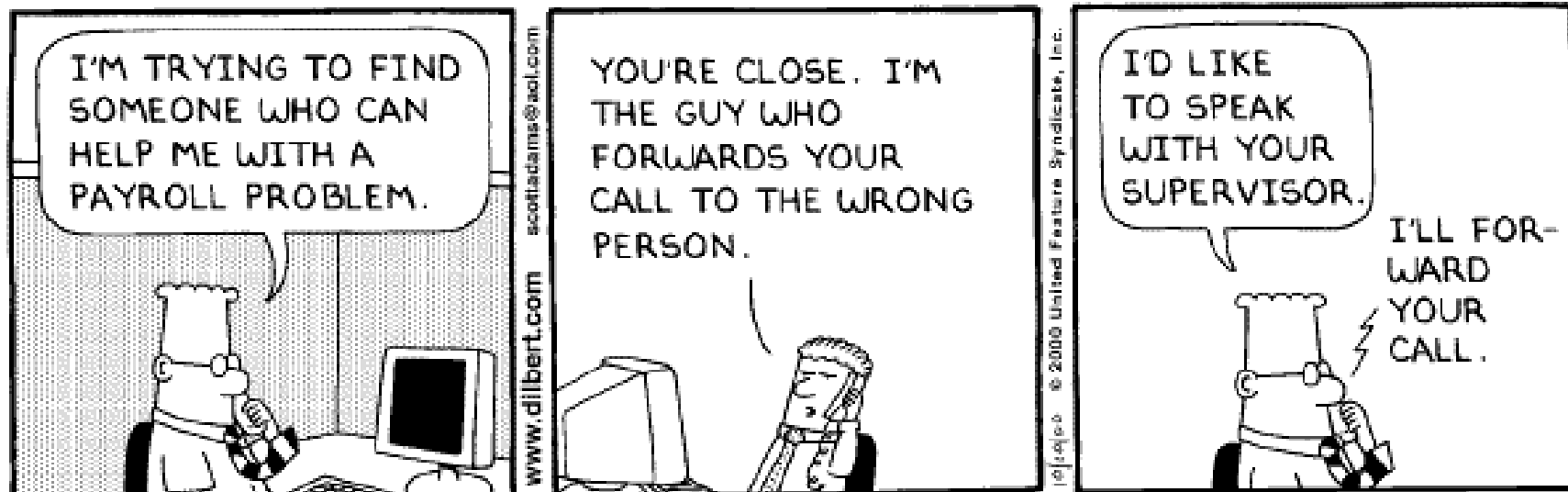


FOCUS report to the HEPCCC

Paul Jeffreys



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FOCUS Presentation to HEPCCC

Agenda

- **FOCUS comparison with 1999**
- **Position of FOCUS**
- **Mandate**
- **Membership**

- **Review of topics in 2000**
- **Overview of subject matter and themes**

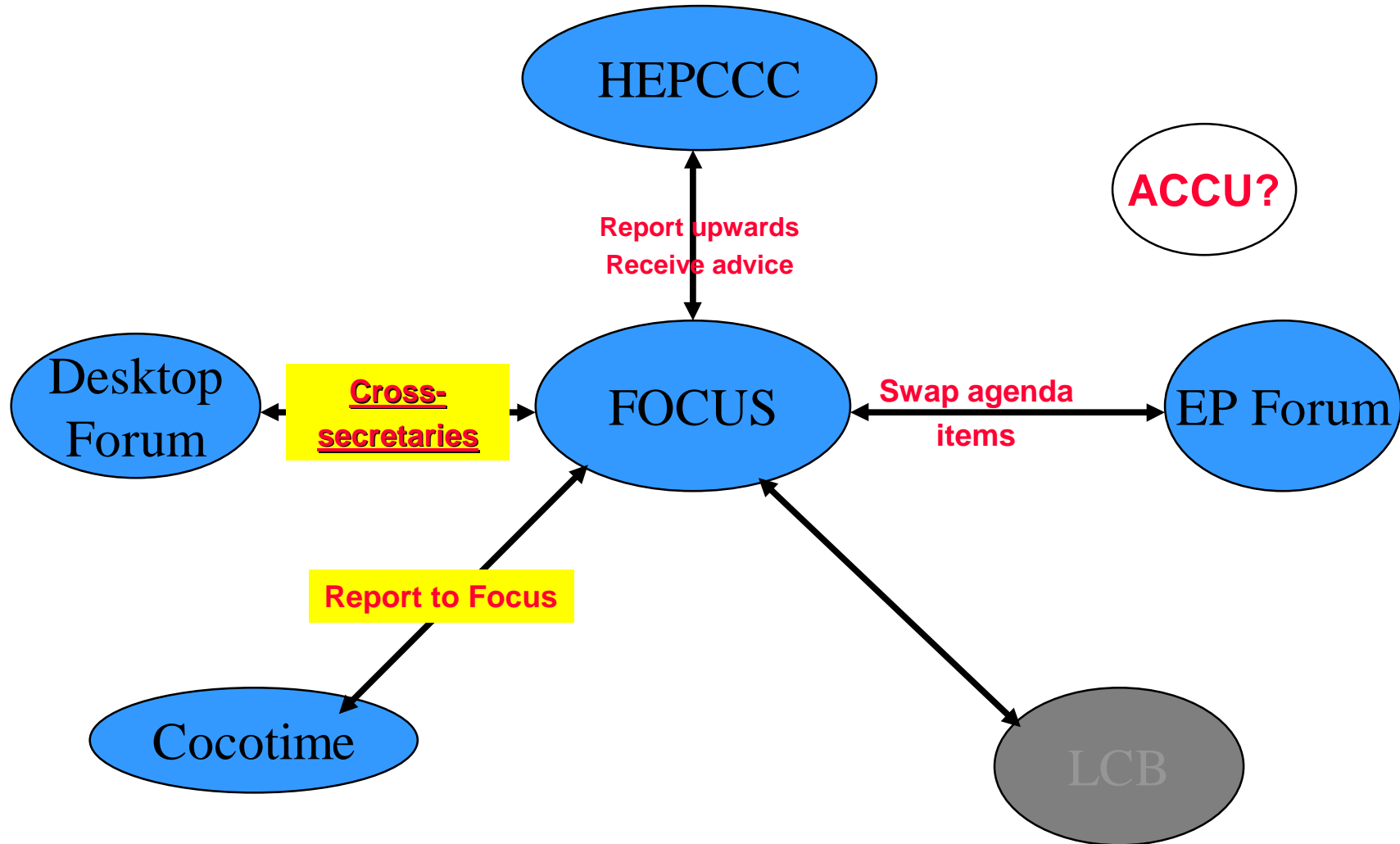
- **Improvements**
- **Changes in 2001**
- **Conclusions**



FOCUS -- comparison with 1999

- LHC Computing Review already on the horizon
- (Data)Grid blew up from the same HEPCCC meeting last year!
 - Reference these again at the end of the talk
- Chairman and secretary better established
 - But still learning
 - Still trying to get the right balance
 - Still receiving criticism!
- As with 1999, superb support
 - Marco and Monique Budel
- As with 1999, very positive relationship with IT
- Built on progress made in 1999...

FOCUS centric view of computing!





FOCUS - Mandate

- **FOCUS is an acronym for Forum On Computing: Users and Services**
- **Taken from Minutes of 1st FOCUS Meeting (14 Mar. '96), which in turn was quoted from DG's letter to Manuel Delfino, Feb. 6, 1996:-**
 - ***“FOCUS will confront the needs of the CERN experiments and the present and planned evolution of CERN computing services with a time window extending roughly two years into the future.”***
- **The Minutes added:-**
 - ***“The mandate will be implemented by enhancing the communication between ‘consumers’ and ‘service providers’ of CERN computing in order to arrive at clear definitions of needs and of services.***
 - ***FOCUS will need to implement liaisons with other relevant committees”***

....particular time of change, welcome steer from HEPCCC



Membership

- **Directors**

- Hans Falk Hoffmann
- Jurgen May
- Rudiger Voss
- Roger Cashmore-attendance

- **IT Representatives**

- Jaques Altabar
- Manuel Delfino
- Frederic Hemmer
- David Jacobs
- Juergen Knobloch
- Miguel Marquina
- Les Robertson
- Jamie Shiers
- Alan Silverman (Desk Top Forum)
- Wolfgang Von Ruden

- **IT Members with Experimental Contact**

- Tony Cass LHCb
- Fabrizio Gagliardo CMS
- Sverre Jarp ATLAS
- Harry Renshall ALICE

- **Experimental Representatives**

- Marco Cattaneo (sec) LHCb
- Maria Kienzle L3
- Begigno Gobbo COMPASS
- Ryszard Gokieli DELPHI
- Alan Grant NOMAD/HARP
- Paul Jeffreys (chair)
- Livio Mapelli ATLAS
- Norman McCubbin ATLAS
- Helge Meinhard CHORUS
- Alan Norton NA48
- Stephen O'Neale OPAL
- Martti Pimia CMS
- Florence Ranjard ALEPH
- Karel Safarik ALICE
- Andres Sandoval NA49
- Vincenzo Innocente CMS
- Pierre Vande Vyvre ALICE

- **Other**

- Michael Ernst (DESY) External
- Francois Etienne External
- Wolfgang Lerche Theory
- Mirco Mazzucato LCB
- Enzo Valente External



Membership Summary

- **Directors**
 - 3+1
- **IT**
 - 9+1
- **IT with experimental contact**
 - 4
- **Experimental Representatives**
 - 17, of which only four non-resident at CERN
- **Other**
 - 5 - with DESY representation (others?)
- **Total**
 - 39 (of which ~25 attend any given meeting) (36 in 1999)
- **Non-CERN resident**
 - 7 (6 in 1999)
- **Experimental Connections**
 - 25+1

SUMMARY

Ideally more non-CERN resident members, but all areas covered
-> Advice from HEPCCC ...
'Volunteers'..



Review of topics considered in 2000

- **Categorise topics:**
 - **Policy to be derived or required**
 - **Review**
 - **Informational**
 - **Also .. Update on IT activities (not included below)**
- **and:**
 - **IT - led**
 - **User (FOCUS) led**

Some items not uniquely defined, indeed migrate from one category to another...



CLRC

FOCUS Topics 2000 - Policy

- **Platforms/Compilers**

Compiler support	IT	Dec
RISC UNIX decomm	IT	Dec
Second Platform	User	Mar
Decom calendar prop	IT	Mar
Recomm. of WG	User	Jun
Definition of 'frozen'	User	Jun
Experiments' reaction	User	Jun
Agree Schedule		Jun
Consolidation of SUN	IT	Oct
RISC decomm schedule	IT	Dec
Reaction to schedule	User	Dec
Plat/compiler supported	IT	Dec
SUNDEV discussions	User	Dec

- **LINUX**

LINUX 2000 prop.	IT	Dec
LINUX proj update	IT	Jun

- **Windows 2000**

User experience	User	Mar
Status and pilot	IT	Mar
Migration status	IT	Oct

- **Web servers and security**

Overview and prop.	IT	Oct
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- **Common Login/Password**

CLASP overview/prop.	IT	Oct
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- **Service Change Announcements**

Prop. for improvement	IT	Oct
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FOCUS Topics 2000 - Informational

- **Y2k**
Lessons learnt **IT** **Mar**
- **Performance/Exception Monitoring**
Status report **IT** **Mar**
- **Data Grid Project**
Status report **IT** **Mar**
Overview of WP2 **IT** **Oct**
Overview of WP5 **User** **Oct**
- **Networking**
Ext. conn. states **IT** **Dec**



Overview of meetings and topics

- **Approximate split:-**
 - **60% (25%) Policy**
 - **Dominated by determination of platform policy**
 - **25% (50%) Review --> Policy**
 - **Dominated by storage issues**
 - **15% (15%) Informational**



Main 'policy' theme in 2000(1)

- **Instructional to review part of process of consideration of 'Platforms/Compilers'**

RISC UNIX decommissioning user reaction

User Dec

Summary of reactions from LEP, LHC and other experiments

FOCUS is pleased to observe a degree of consistency between the LEP and LHC experiments. There is wide agreement that there should be continuing support for SOLARIS, and it is proposed to for a user group to advise on requirements (Action). FOCUS concludes that RISC UNIX will need to be supported for a longer period than originally proposed (except for AIX).

Thoughts on second platform requirements

IT/User Mar

Proposal from IT, - and first feedback from user group

FOCUS is pleased to receive a very detailed survey and set of proposals from IT. In general it supports the proposal and requests feedback in order to make definitive decisions at the next FOCUS meeting (Action). A remaining issue is the precise definition, and support for, a second 'software validation' platform at CERN (Action).

Recommendation of second validation platform

User Jun

User Group Review

The second software validation platform working group has reached its first conclusion, but FOCUS requests a fuller analysis to be made and documented



Main 'policy' theme in 2000(2)

Definition of 'Frozen'

User Jun

Response from 4 LEP experiments

FOCUS thanks all the contributors to this process. It believes that we have responded to the challenges to define a 'frozen' operating system, and to comment on the decommissioning schedule. We have reached the point where the overall schedule and definition of frozen O.S.s are now agreed, and will be documented (Action).

Consolidation of SUN physics services

IT Oct

Proposal to concentrate physics SUN services on a single shared interactive service .. SUNDEV

FOCUS agrees that SUN is required as a second software development and validation platform for physics and that the prime platform remains LINUX/Intel. It recommends that a small group be formed (Action) to define with the IT/PDP group the SUNDEV service before the COCOTIME meeting, taking into account the presentation made by Les Robertson and the agreement already reached by the committee.

Carefully taken steps with user input essential

... and the process continues to define the supported platforms at CERN



Main 'Policy' theme -observations

- Complex issues – often with considerable amount of history
- Cannot move too quickly!
- Need number of bites at cherry, often iterative process
- Need flexibility and good-will on both sides
- Generally requires IT to make proposal
 - Then evaluated by users
 - ... and process repeated at increasing levels of detail
- *FOCUS plays important role in facilitating this, recording steps in the process, and making decisions formal*



FOCUS -tricky to make process work well

- **Model of operation**
 - **Ideally:**
 - Well researched topic, users consulted, groundwork done
 - Active user participation in process (sometimes through Work Groups), preferably individual taking ownership of issue, reviewing, working with members of IT
 - Then ... brought before the FOCUS committee
 - Users feel correctly represented
 - Solution presented which they can buy into
 - IT department - part of the plans
 - Request being made to IT viable, and costed
 - Directors can go away
 - Understanding and appreciating issue!
 - Resource implications well defined
 - Able to convince directorate that correct decision
 - **Hard to realize in practice, challenge is to ensure rewarding meeting for all attendees**
 - **Often process has to be iterative**



Improvements

- **Steps taken already:**
 - Always have 4 agendas ahead (differing degrees of detail)
 - Have at least three weeks notice of full agenda before a meeting, and as many talks available in advance of the meeting as possible
 - Proving to be extremely difficult!
 - User 'ownership' encouraged
 - IT contribution and AoB managed carefully
- **Need to find more ways to get Users to 'own' an issue**

- **Alternative evaluation of computing provision at CERN?!**
 - External review of IT was planned -- but everyone too busy at present, and inappropriate at time of LHC Computing Review



Change to FOCUS Mandate?

- **Two years down the line...**
 - **Mainly concentrated on general computing services:**
 - **Computing platforms**
 - **Mass Storage**
 - **Security**
 - **Backup**
- **Time of transition reached ...**
 - **Conclusion of LHC Computing Review**
 - **Data Challenges behind - and ahead - of us (Grid)**
 - **Experiments moving from R&D to prototyping stage**
 - **DataGrid soon delivering (testbed 0)**
 - **LHC timescale established!**
- **Time for shift in emphasis for FOCUS?**
 - **Towards HEP specific services**
 - **Data storage**
 - **Data Presentation**
 - **CERN-based Grid activities**



Conclusions

- **Second year under new management**
- **FOCUS *is* a useful forum, good progress made, policy established and recorded**
 - **Still learning**
 - **Committee changing**
- **FOCUS will need to evolve to meet new challenges**
- **Very exciting and challenging period for Particle Physics computing**
- **Advice from HEPCCC regarding future mandate very welcome!**