

Notes on the FUE/WWW Meeting

March 15, 1994

D. Ritchie

Ruth Pordes opened the meeting and called upon David Ritchie to address Agenda topic #1 concerning the Fermilab Home Page.

David described some of the initial thinking about putting together a broad-based committee to design the Fermilab Home Page. However, in late February with the great numbers of WWW servers springing up all over the Fermilab site, it was clear that we needed to move more rapidly. As a result, a working group consisting of Liz Quigg and Judy Jackson was appointed. The charge to that working group was distributed to those at the FUE/WWW meeting and discussed briefly. David next turned the meeting over to Judy Jackson to describe the draft Fermilab Home Page as currently proposed.

Judy reported that she and Liz Quigg surveyed some fifteen different home pages and found some good and bad efforts. She presented the draft design for the Fermilab Home Page and described the thinking that went into constructing it. She made an analogy with the national edition of the New York Times. It is organized as a first section with a "national" (in this case, science-wide) view, a second section more at home (e.g., focused on Fermilab), and a third section concerning business (in this case, with reference to the working areas of the "web" at the laboratory).

A number of individuals commented on the design. One comment concerned technical people not wanting to have to go through the "for the public" sections all the time to get to the "business" section. It was felt that this matter could be handled by the use of the Mosaic "Hot List" feature which would allow people to jump directly to the "business pages".

A number of other comments were made. It was felt important not to have the Fermilab Home Page being served off a possibly down workstation. It was also suggested that it be referenced by a network alias so that the actual machine could be easily changed in the future. Judy indicated that she had various pieces of text in other documents that could be lifted to make the text for the public pages but that she might need some technical help revising the physics language. The matter of getting various graphic images was discussed. There appeared to be consensus to proceed. At some point, the Fermilab Home Page will be put up in draft form for comments and suggestions.

Also discussed was the Computing Division Home Page. Suggestions for revisions to that should be e-mailed to D. Ritchie who will report back on suggestions to the FUE/WWW group later. Some issues concerning whether there should be guidelines for all server home pages were discussed. D. Ritchie agreed that DBI would accumulate suggestions for such a style guide along with helping with the implementation of the Fermilab Home Page as drafted by the Working Group.

Ruth Pordes brought up the need for a WWW-accessible set of CERN short and long write-ups on this side of the Atlantic. Various options were discussed. David Martin, Lynn Garren, and Ruth Pordes agreed to discuss the possibility of HEPNRC maintaining such a set of write-ups available through WWW.

Ruth reported that her Department was beginning to collect various WWW tools, such as something that would take manpages and convert them to html format. They will make information available through an appropriate WWW server.

There was some discussion of the need for a GID/UID for WWW so that servers could run under that specific set of id's. Also discussed was the need for a similar set of id's for the documents that to be displayed by the server. (The former set of id's is intended not to own anything and thereby prevent hacking into a system by way of its WWW server.)

The meeting moved on to a discussion of UPS releases. The minutes of this portion of the meeting are documented elsewhere.