

CAS Work Group

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2000

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gary Langer (MnSCU), Penny Nhan (U of M), Laurie Tralle (MnSCU), Gary Fuller (U of M), Michael Jahnke (MnSCU), George Hudachek (U of M), Margo Mueller (U of M), Jason Holscher (U of M), Fred Forseman (MnSCU), Sandi Quint (U of M)

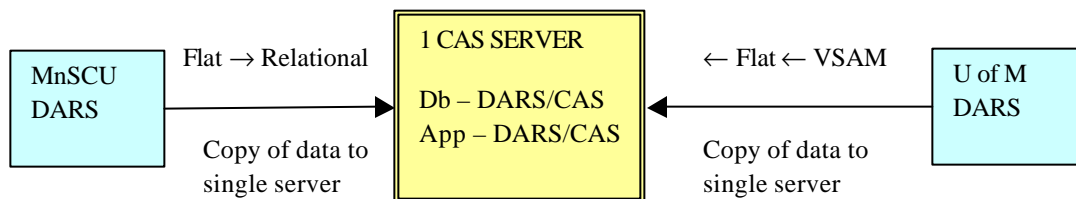
Guests Present: Jason Elwood, Miami University
Larry Uhlir, MnSCU

After welcome & introductions, the committee list was passed around the room for corrections and additions. Laurie updated the group on the status of the national website – **transfer.org** and the Minnesota CAS Website – **cas.mntransfer.org**. There is now a link on transfer.org to the Minnesota project. Suggestions for improvements and additions to the Minnesota website are welcome anytime. Please let Laurie know your ideas and comments.

Jason Elwood then led the group through a discussion of the technical set up for CAS. All servers housing CAS in the U.S. will be connected. Each site will have DARS & CAS. The database can be separate, but the two need to be connected. CAS is very flexible in the applications it will run. MnSCU has Oracle8 and Oracle RDB. U of M has Oracle. Jason described the server configurations in other CAS states. The U of Washington has 1 machine, Arizona uses 2 machines, and Ohio has regional sites.

In discussing the size of the server to purchase or use, Jason advised the group that the ability to crank data out of the database is the key. If it's slow, we won't be happy. Ohio got a Sun server at a very reasonable price. It has a UNIX operating system and they are pleased with performance so far. When questioned about a formula for size using student population, he explained that the size of server needed is demand dependent and it isn't possible to predict demand at this time.

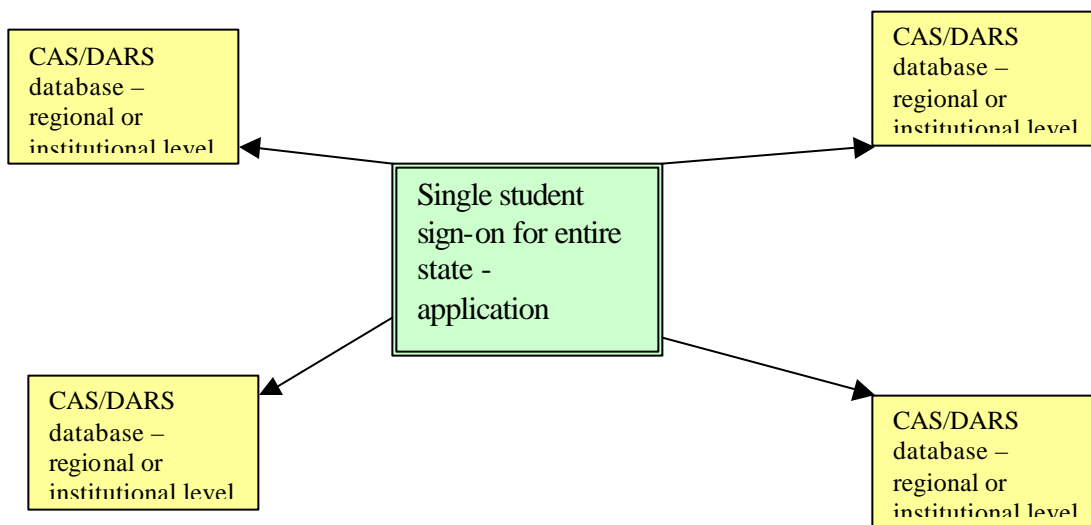
One possible model Jason presented was to have one CAS server for the entire state:



Ohio does a monthly update of data to their servers. In DARS client server version (MnSCU) there are 7 flat files that must be sent, in the CICS version (U of M) there are 4 flat files –

[degree programs, requirements, master reference and transfer articulation]. There needs to be a database administrator to update the data. The process can be manual or automatic. There are plans to hire a Database Administrator for ISEEK with MnVU dollars and Gary suggested that perhaps this could be within their job duties. When asked, Jason said that Ohio stores student data in the CAS Server only for 1 year after inactivity. Mike mentioned the need to discuss the size of the server and determine the cost, minimum support needed and the cost of the necessary licenses. He suggested that we look at the ISEEK boxes as well.

George suggested that Stage 1 of CAS Implementation be to get a single server and use the model above. Stage 2 would be to add more MnSCU schools and Stage 3 would be to go to the Wisconsin model:



Jason explained that we would need to get DARS data – install; test; get CAS piece – install and test.

Plan:

- Install DARS on new box
- FTP data from current DARS to box
- Other – software licenses; what to do with Oracle; check with Jim Dierich & Azin about ISEEK single processor license (upgrade?)
- Need microfocus Cobol & UNIX box to run DARS

CAS is moving from C++ to Java. We don't need someone in house to know Java in order to use CAS.

Timeline:

- ◆ Programming activity can start now to prepare DARS files
- ◆ There will be a CAS workshop at Miami U on Oct 22 – 24, 2000. One half-day will be spent on what you need in DARS to make CAS work. Two days will be spent on actual set-up of CAS. It was suggested that teams be sent from Minnesota CAS project. Gary will check the

budget for dollars to send people. [In a college implementation model, Jason suggested sending a 5 person team including: 1) Campus administrator; 2) Techie; 3) Advisor;

- ◆ 4) Someone who knows Degree Audit side; 5) Someone who knows the Transfer Articulation side.]
- ◆ Goal will be to have CAS test set-up functional in time for above workshop.
- ◆ Mike Jahnke will check with Jim Dierich. MnSCU may meet separately to determine feasibility, set plan for server purchase and setup.
- ◆ We discussed the idea of implementing CAS regionally and discussed the idea of initially implementing with the U of M and the Metro Alliance schools.
- ◆ Group wanted to meet again in August to get update on file preparation and server decisions.

When questioned about EDI and electronic submission of student portfolio (coursework), Jason outlined the ways data can come in to CAS:

1. Freeform data entry by student
2. Student selects from coursebank in CAS
3. Student uses secure access to have their courses come in directly from their school (using existing secure web access?)
4. EDI – no one has touched this in the last year.

Jason suggested that the best and most direct way would be using the process in 3 above.

He also mentioned that Ohio was beginning to deal with H.S. student issues with CAS and is developing a plan for a Tech Prep component in CAS

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2000
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Conference Room 321, ETC Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Tralle