

May 21, 2007

To: Mark Hopkins, NSS Senior Operating Officer  
cc: Members of NSS Board of Directors  
cc: Members of NSS Internet Services Committee  
**Subject: ISC Activity Report, Period from October 2006 thru April 2007**

### **Problems and Concerns**

- Many ISC open action items, but not still enough experienced volunteers to work them
- NSS Email Plan still behind schedule — will need volunteers to help write and implement it
- Web site redesign progress barely moving forward — need new leadership and many volunteers
- Link to Political Action Network highlighted in new NSS brochure — still need dedicated PAN page
- Still need to ensure that all online forms agree with the new NSS Membership Policy.
- Need short bio & small photo for each new Director, Officer, Governor, and Advisor for Web site.
- The *Ad Astra* Web site section especially needs an overhaul with some “pizzazz” styling.

### **Introduction**

- On January 11, Arthur Smith submitted an email message announcing that he was resigning from his position as Chair of the Internet Services Committee. In his message he states: “Aside from what I perceive as my strengths not matching what’s needed, the other main issue for me is the level of time and commitment it would take to make the changes we clearly need.” Arthur’s past work on the ISC was greatly appreciated and we wish him the best in the future. Past ISC Chair Ronnie Lajoie is filling in as Acting Chair until a permanent replacement is found, but his duties as Vice-President for Membership have been taking priority.
- Last year, the NSS Corporate Policies were revised to add definitions for the Internet Services Committee (ISC) and Web Oversight Committee (WOC). These two groups consisting of mostly volunteers together maintain and enhance our Internet presence. An associated “NSS Web Site Policy” that provides further details still needs to be written. In general, this approach has been working fairly well since 2004; however, both committees suffer for lack of sufficient members, and now both committees lack appointed Chairs.
- The ISC is a collection of volunteers that provide free Internet services (Web, email, etc.) to the NSS. The NSS leadership can and does also utilize paid Internet contractors and services (e.g., CyberTeams, Xisp, Imaginova), especially for infrastructure. For the legal protection of NSS, ownership for the content on NSS Web pages rests with the NSS leadership and their committees that are responsible for functions similar to those described on “their” parts of the NSS Web site (e.g., Chapters Committee over Chapters Web section).
- The WOC is a collection of designated NSS leader/committee representatives that provide requirements and other “content” for the NSS Web site. The WOC is therefore the Web-savvy agent of the NSS leadership and has the final authority over the NSS Web site. Its function when operating as a full committee is to coordinate the development and use of standards for the NSS Web site; leaving the creation of specific pages to its individual members and their ISC partners.

**NSS Email Lists and Email Protection**

- Development and implementation of the NSS Email Plan is on hold while more urgent matters are addressed. The Chapters Committee and HAL5 have volunteered to be guinea pigs for the first “Mailman” email lists using the to-be-proposed configuration settings. This will help in the formulation and execution of the Plan.

- Despite these delays, ISC Email Subteam members continue to provide email forwarding capability to many NSS leaders, and provide email list capability via “MajorDomo” on the CyberTeams server and “Cobalt” on the Xisp server. The plan is still to transition all needed email lists to the more powerful and user-friendly Mailman software, which also can be partly automated via Web forms and PHP scripts.

- The old MajorDomo lists, discovered by spambots in mid-2005, were being attacked by spam at an exponentially increasing rate until anti-spam measures were finally implemented in November 2006, as shown in Figure 1. The ISC

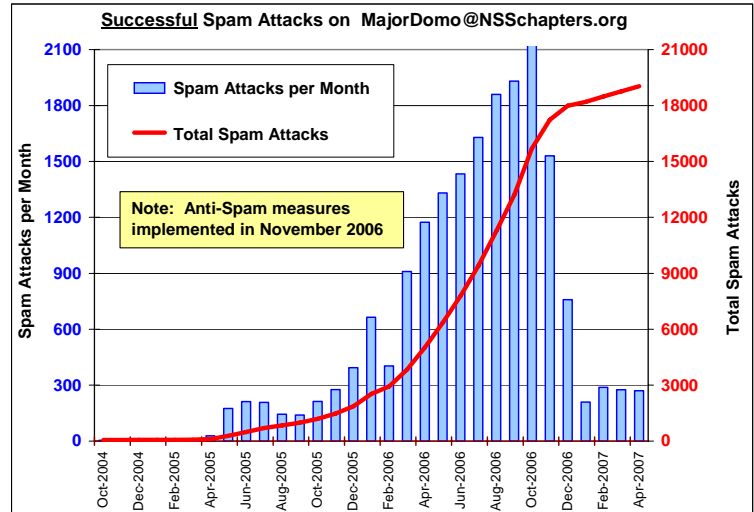


Figure 1. Fraction of spam attacking MajorDomo.

would like to thank Randall Severy and Dale Amon for their actions to improve our email services. These measure provide protection for the entire CyberTeams server, and the amount of spam messages being passed through to NSS email addresses (especially those published on the Web site) have noticeably reduced. The plan is still to transition published national-level NSS email addresses to an auto-reply service that will defer senders to the new Online Feedback Form. This form will be operational shortly after ISDC 2007.

- The Unix files associated with the email forwarding and mailing list support capabilities (specifically “virtusers” and “aliases”) were overhauled in a major cleanup operation in September 2006 (see the previous report for details). Thus far, the new “include” process for maintaining these files has proved highly successful. After eight months and 30+ change operations (logged in “history” files), the email address information contained within these files is as “clean” and organized as they were in September. A goal of the ISC Email Team is to further improve the flexibility, user-friendliness, and robustness of maintaining these files via a password-protect online form processed by an automated PHP script.

- Another success is the new email auto-reply capability, which was also created in September 2006. With the help of a few corrections recommended by Randall Severy, the auto-reply script has proven to be an effective way to handle obsolete, spam-bombarded NSS email addresses. This script sends an email message back to the Sender with the obsolete email address (e.g., JimLovell@nss.org) as the “From:” and with a short email message explaining that the email address has been removed from the system or does not exist, and to use the new Online

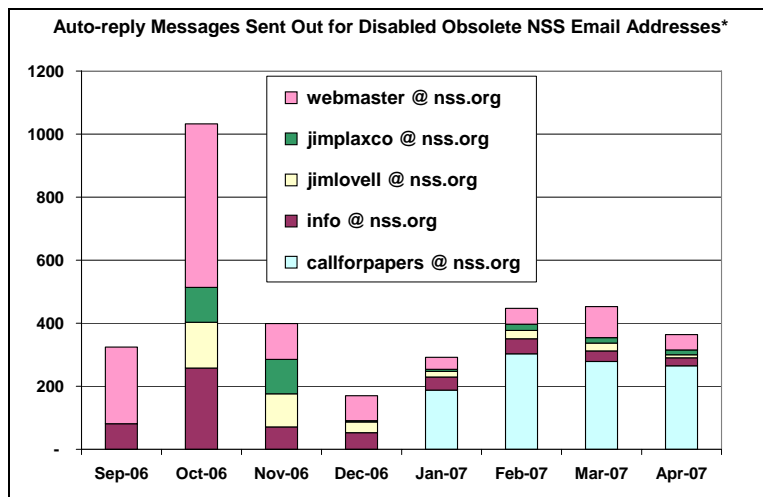


Figure 2. Auto-Reply messages sent back to Senders.

Feedback Form or call NSS Headquarters instead. One of the goals of the auto-reply capability is to convince spammers that these email addresses are not worth spamming and to stop sending them email. There are some indications that this may be happening (see Figure 2), but the data has been partly skewed by the implementation of anti-spam software in November, and by the addition of newly obsoleted addresses.

- Since most (if not all) of the spam messages come from fake (or quickly expired) email addresses, most of the auto-reply messages were getting bounced back to the CyberTeams server. After a correction was made in February to the “postmaster@nss.org” forwarding address (it was accidentally causing a mail-loop — sorry Randall!), it soon became clear that the NSS Postmaster (first Arthur Smith and then me) was going to receive hundreds of bounced email messages per month. A new email processing script named “filter\_email.sh” was quickly written based on the “autoreply.sh” script. The filter script simply discards any bounced auto-reply messages and lets the rest pass through to the NSS Postmaster. Like the auto-reply script, the filter script maintains a log file of discard email messages. To date, as shown in Figure 3, almost one thousand bounced auto-reply messages have been successfully filtered, with much thanks from the NSS Postmaster. This email filtering technique may have other uses for providing an additional layer of spam protection.

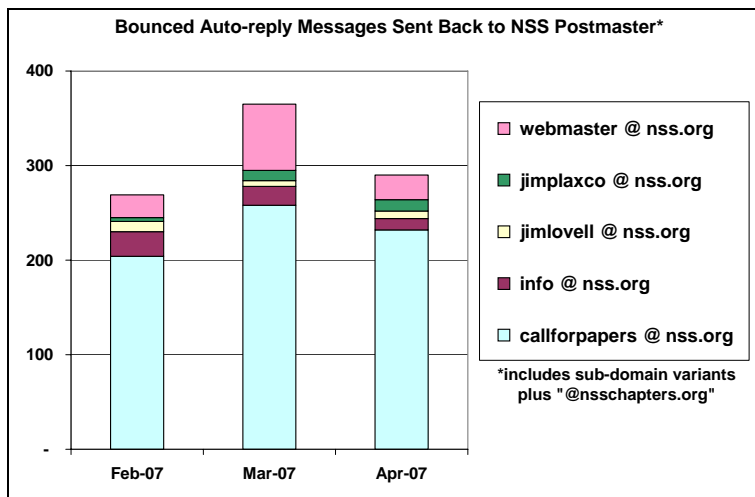


Figure 3. Filtered bounced Auto-Reply messages.

### NSS Web Site

- Members of the ISC and WOC met in Las Cruces during the Fall NSS Meeting for a 2-hour status meeting. This was Arthur Smith’s first (and last) meeting as the newly appointed ISC Chair. He received some limited assistance from a literally speechless past Chair Ronnie Lajoie, who had lost his voice the previous day.
- In Arthur Smith’s resignation email, he made these suggestions to improve our current situation: “One step ... would be to move most of our website and email, and DNS handling also, to a widely used hosted service — I’ve been recently quite impressed with 1&1, though there are many others as capable: <http://order.1and1.com/xml/order/HostingBus>. For their \$10/month business plan you get 200 GB of storage, 2000 GB/month transfers, 25 FTP accounts for people to update the site, 100 MySQL databases (100 MB data in each), 2000 email mailboxes and 5000 email aliases, 200 subdomains, and 100 external domains. This is with very simplified web-based automation management of most of what you would want to do with such a site. The business plan comes with their ‘email marketing tool’ which allows you to send 1000 emails to a distribution list per month, with a small additional charge for more than that (\$0.99/1000), and simple web forms to upload and manage the lists and mailings. Our current hosting with CyberTeams (or the alternative with Elaine’s Ziaspace) may be free, but it comes with the burden of having to manage much of the underlying ‘stuff’ ourselves — that’s not where our time and energy should be spent, in my view.”
- A subsequent examination of the 1&1 Web site raised some concerns, but as Arthur pointed out, there are many other similar services. If these others offer similar features for similar prices (an amazingly low \$10/month), it may be worth trying out one or two, especially to gauge the claims of simple Web site development. What would be ideal is for NSS members to come forward with their real-life experiences using such alternative Web hosting environments. More information is needed and even more testing needs to be performed before NSS should commit itself to moving the entire Web site/system to a new host.

- In March, an initial assessment of the various sections and directories of the NSS Web site was performed. Each section and directory was stuated and assigned an owner and a WOC representative, as shown below:

Domain / Subdomain	Directory or Page	Type	Status	Section Name	Committee Owner	Primary WOC Rep
www.nss.org	about	section	current	About NSS	Public Affairs (PAC)	PAC Chair (Pyle)
www.nss.org	about/running	section	OLD	Running for the NSS Board	Elections (EC)	EC Chair (TBD)
www.nss.org	adastra	section	OLD	Ad Astra Magazine	Publications	Publications
www.nss.org	awards	section	in-work	NSS Awards	Awards (AC)	AC Chair (Jordan)
www.nss.org	benefits	redirect	in-use	Membership Benefits	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	blitz07	service	in-use	Blitz on-line registration	Policy (PC)	PC Chair (Allison)
www.nss.org	commerce	section	OLD	Space Commerce Digest	Education (EdC)	Arthur Smith
www.nss.org	common	files	in-work	common Web templates	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	community	section	OLD	NSS Community	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	docs	files	in-work	supporting files directory	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	donate	redirect	in-use	NSS Donation Form	Development (DC)	DC Chair (Gaines)
www.nss.org	education	section	OLD	Education	Education (EdC)	EdC Chair (Zielinski)
www.nss.org	feedback	redirect	in-use	NSS Feedback Form	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	finances	section	in-work	NSS Financial Information	Finance (FC)	FC Chair (Redfield)
www.nss.org	forms	files	OLD	supporting forms directory	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	forums	section	OLD	NSS Forums	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	gift	redirect	in-use	Gift Membership Form	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	giving	section	in-work	Giving to NSS	Development (DC)	DC Chair (Gaines)
www.nss.org	griffinspeech	redirect	in-use	Griffin Speech	Public Affairs (PAC)	NSS HQ (Silcox)
www.nss.org	hq	section	OLD	Cassini Updates (blog)	Education (EdC)	John Strickland
www.nss.org	images	files	current	image file directory	Web Oversight (WOC)	WOC Chair (Pyle)
www.nss.org	index.html	page	current	NSS Home Page	Web Oversight (WOC)	NSS HQ (Whitesides)
www.nss.org	isdc	redirect	in-use	ISDC	Conference Coord.	NSS HQ (Silcox)
www.nss.org	join	redirect	in-use	Membership Intro	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	legislative	section	current	Legislative Action	Policy (PC)	PC Chair (Allison)
www.nss.org	letters	redirect	in-use		Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	lunar	section	OLD	Center for Lunar Research	Education (EdC)	EdC Chair (Zielinski)
www.nss.org	membership	section	current	Membership	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	missions	section	current	Mission Blog	Education (EdC)	Marianne Dyson
www.nss.org	moo	service	in-use	MOO Chat service	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	myNSS	redirect	in-use	MyNSS service	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	news	section	OLD	News	Public Affairs (PAC)	PAC Chair (Pyle)
www.nss.org	PAN	redirect	in-use	Political Action Network	Policy (PC)	PC Chair (Allison)
www.nss.org	phpbb	service	dead	PHP Forum service	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	renew	redirect	in-use	NSS Renewal Form	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	resources	section	in-work	Space-related Resources	Education (EdC)	EdC Chair (Zielinski)
www.nss.org	resources/books	section	current	Reading Space	Education (EdC)	Marianne Dyson
www.nss.org	RSS	service	in-use	RSS Feed service	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	scholarship	redirect	in-use	ISU Scholarship	Education (EdC)	NSS HQ (Silcox)
www.nss.org	science	section	OLD	Cassini Updates (blog)	Education (EdC)	John Strickland
www.nss.org	scripts	CMS	in-use	scripts for Web pages	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	settlement	section	current	Space Settlement	Space Settlement (SSC)	SSC Chair (Globus)
www.nss.org	spacelinks	section	current	Space-related Links	Education (EdC)	EdC Chair (Zielinski)
www.nss.org	spacestore	section	OLD	Space Store	Development (DC)	DC Chair (Gaines)
www.nss.org	speakers	section	in-work	NSS Speakers Bureau	Public Affairs (PAC)	PAC Chair (Pyle)
www.nss.org	tourism	section	in-work	Space Tourism positions	Policy (PC)	PC Chair (Allison)
www.nss.org	training	redirect	in-use	NSS Training Form	Internet Services (ISC)	ISC Chair (Lajoie)
www.nss.org	volunteer	redirect	in-use	NSS Volunteer Form	Membership (MC)	MC Chair (Lajoie)
chapters.nss.org	a	section	current	Chapters Top-Level	Chapters (CC)	CC Chair (Pankanin)
chapters.nss.org	index.html	page	current	Chapters Home Page	Chapters (CC)	CC Chair (Pankanin)
isdc.nss.org	1982 to 2005	section	archive	1982 ISDC to ISDC 2005	Conference Coord.	CCC Chair (Amon)
isdc.nss.org	2007	section	current	ISDC 2007	Conference Coord.	NSS HQ (Silcox)
isdc.nss.org	2008	section	in-work	ISDC 2008	Conference Coord.	ISDC 2008 Chair
isdc.nss.org	index.html	page	current	ISDC Home Page	Conference Coord.	CCC Chair (Amon)

- *Ad Astra* section — Josh Powers has replaced Richard Godwin as the contact person and maintainer of the *Ad Astra* Online site at <http://www.space.com/adastra/>. The ISC would like to express its thanks to Richard for doing his best to keep the site fresh for the past year. Meanwhile, the “primary” site for our “flagship magazine” at <http://www.nss.org/adastra/> continues to be neglected due to a lack of qualified volunteers. A team of volunteers or discounted Web development pros are needed to overhaul the main *Ad Astra* section.
- Awards section — David Brandt-Erichson (ISC) for Awards Committee Chair, Margaret Jordan (WOC) has offered to update and enhance the information in this section. He is waiting for that information. WOC-side volunteers are needed to provide the historical information of past award recipients and associated photographs. At last year’s ISDC, pencil sketches were made for a more elegant site, but that is on hold.
- Chapters section — Ronnie Lajoie (ISC) for Chapters Committee (WOC) continued to maintain the new Chapter Web Listing at <http://chapters.nss.org/a/lists/> via the automated macros in the Excel Chapter Database. At the request of HQ, the macros to generate the Web lists, and the *Ad Astra* listing especially, were modified to so that they can be executed by others (e.g., Bruce Janele, Candace Pankanin). A complete set of detailed instructions was written and provided in the Excel files and as separate PDF files.
- Chapters section — Chapters VP Candace Pankanin and newly elected Chapter Projects & Events Coordinator Veronica Zabala used their local chapter Web site building skills to add new materials and further updates to the Chapters section of the NSS Web site. Veronica created a Projects & Events Web page at: <http://chapters.nss.org/committees/ProjectsandEvents/NSSChaptersNetworkProjectandEvents.html>; while Candace reworked the “News” page and created an entire set of pages associated with her Banner Redesign Contest based on the Space Settlement Art Contest pages designed by David Brandt-Erichsen (see <http://chapters.nss.org/committees/chapters/Home.htm>). In addition to other assistance to Candace, David also provided an associated set of Web pages to display the submitted banner concepts at <http://www.nss.org/awards/banner.html>. For more information, see Candace’s report for the Chapters Committee and David’s supplemental Web site report.
- Giving section — No progress due to other priorities and lack of guidance from the Development Committee; however, a request has been made for a new online form for automatic donations (see Online Forms section).
- Home Page — Ronnie Lajoie (ISC) assisted Brett Silcox and George Whitesides (WOC) in maintaining the NSS Home Page. George and Brett have become quite adept at using WSD LiveUpdate to edit Web pages and provide the latest news and make other minor improvements to the Home Page, while Ronnie provides cleanup operations and other fine-tuning not possible with WYSIWYG editors.
- ISDC section — The ISDC 2007 Web site at <http://isdc.nss.org/2007/>, as the ISDC 2006 site before it, is an application of WSD “page layout templates” that is being considered for general implementation across the NSS Web site. Honing their LiveUpdate skills, Brett Silcox, George Whitesides, and Jeremy Pyle have led the development of the ISDC 2007 Web site, along with Web designer Stephen Prater and the ISDC host chapter staff of Carol Johnson, Dan Stockleman, and others. Congratulations to the team for their hard work to make a comprehensive Web site!
- ISDC section — Randall Severy (contractor) for Whitesides & Conferences Committee (WOC) updated registration files and provided initial setup support for ISDC 2007 Web site at <http://isdc.nss.org/2007/>.
- ISDC section — Gary Barnhard (contractor) for the ISDC 2007 Committee (WOC) performed an emergency rehost of the ISDC Speakers Database from an old, slow (originally temporary) server to a newer, faster one. No data was lost during the rehosting and down-time was minimal. Performance is now greatly improved.
- Legislative section — David Brandt-Erichsen and Brett Silcox (ISC) for Policy Committee (WOC) updated the Legislative Action section at <http://www.nss.org/legislative/> to advertise and provide links to information about the February Space Blitz event and the upcoming June one. The NSS brochure link for the Political Action Network of <http://www.nss.org/PAN> still points to the Legislative Action main page, and a volunteer from each of the WOC and ISC is needed to design and create a special Web page devoted to the PAN.

- Membership section — No progress due to other priorities. The current pages are fine compared to others.
- Public Affairs section — Outside of a little “spring-cleaning” by Ronnie Lajoie (ISC) for VP-PA Jeremy Pyle (WOC), the “About Us” section at <http://www.nss.org/about/> has remained idle. Short bios and photos for the Web pages below <http://www.nss.org/about/bios/> are still being sought for new Directors, Officers, Governors, and Advisors; however, many have been provided but not yet uploaded to the NSS Web site.
- Public Affairs section — For almost a year, NSS HQ has been sending out press releases directly via Constant Contact, the same mechanism used to publish *NSS Downlink*, and thus the “News” section at <http://www.nss.org/news/> no longer has an updated archive of past NSS Press Releases. The ISC will address this issue at ISDC 2007, especially in terms of a procedure (preferably automated) for maintaining this part of the NSS Web site.
- Resource section — David Brandt-Erichson (ISC) for Marianne Dyson (WOC) continues to update the new “Reading Space” book reviews section at <http://www.nss.org/resources/books/>. David and Marianne, along with Marianne’s team of volunteer reviewers, are to be congratulated for their efforts to keep this site up-to-date and to meet the NSS Leadership’s stated desire to provide unique resources from the NSS Web site.
- Resource section — David Brandt-Erichson (ISC) for the Education and Outreach Committee (WOC) has begun experimental development of a new Library section at <http://www.nss.org/resources/library/> based on similar work he did for the Space Settlement section at <http://www.nss.org/settlement/library.html>.
- Settlement section — David Brandt-Erichson (ISC) for Al Globus and the Space Settlement Advocacy Committee (WOC) continues to enhance the great new Space Settlement section of the NSS Web site at <http://www.nss.org/settlement/>. There is insufficient words of praise that be given to David for his tireless work in creating this comprehensive addition to the NSS Web site, and Acting ISC Chair Ronnie Lajoie is working to provide David with a more tangible form of appreciation. For more information, see David’s supplemental Web site report.
- Settlement section — David Brandt-Erichson (ISC) for Jim Plaxco and the Space Settlement Calendar Committee (WOC) developed and maintained a Calendar Art Contest section of the NSS Web site at <http://www.nss.org/settlement/calendar/>. David continues to work hard and make his clients very happy with his quick response time, even during holidays and frantic pace of a closing contest deadline.
- Volunteer section — No progress due to other priorities and lack of demand from the Operations Committee.

### **NSS Online Forms**

- Since October, there have been a number of minor bug fixes and enhancements to the online forms and supporting JavaScript functions, plus a minor revision of Space Shuttle Patch campaign. There was also the addition of the Space Settlement Calendar Art Contest Form and later the NSS Banner Contest Form variant, as well as new and improved associated JavaScript functions and files. These enhancements include:
- Updated JavaScript functions to list and check for DoD “APO” postal “states” (for overseas U.S. mail). Also reformatted U.S. state listing to now show the state abbreviation before the state name (separated by dashes).
- Added JavaScript functions for preparing HTML output, for checking required checkboxes, and for checking the name of a file to be uploaded.
- Added JavaScript file “internet\_data.js” with functions for validating Internet URL (Web site address) component data (Scheme, Host, Path, Anchor, etc.), including email address domain (Host). The validation of email addresses has been greatly improved, at least in terms of proper format.
- Added JavaScript file “nss\_form\_status.js” with functions for replacing the online form HTML page with a notice if the Form Processing software is temporarily down (e.g., for a maintenance upgrade).

- Added initial versions of HTML “insert” files to store enhanced common chunks of HTML code used by the online forms. These “insert” files will be included by SHTML versions of the online form Web pages (soon to be operational) via embedded server-side-include (SSI) commands. This will greatly reduce the maintenance burden of keeping the online forms up-to-date, as a change in one “insert” file will immediately take affect in all online forms. The only downside is a slight increase in CPU usage by the host server.
- Added the NSS online Space Settlement Calendar Art Contest Form (based on others forms); which served (successfully) as the initial guinea pig for the new SHTML methodology. Rather than hard-code certain contest decisions (e.g., allowed file types, maximum size, etc.) in the PHP processing script, the online form uses “hidden” form variables to allow the form designer to specify this information, allow for quick changes. (This feature was used during the contest). Also added the associated Web and email response template files.
- Added a variant of the online contest form for the NSS Banner Redesign Contest. During its creation, it was rediscovered that SHTML files can be nested (one can “include” another), and this was successfully implemented for a new “Current Chapter Member?” field needing a chapter list menu. Based on this success, another round of online form file simplification via nested-SHTML files is planned for shortly after ISDC.
- Another SSI feature rediscovery was the ability to perform logic tests within an SHTML file. The Banner Contest form served as the guinea pig for a successful test that now allows a single parameter value change to switch the online forms among NODAC Test Mode (using the NODAC test database and functions), NODAC Run Mode (normal operation), and CyberTeams/PayPal Mode. This last mode, still under development, will allow the online forms to be processed using CyberTeams software similar to what is currently processing the ISDC registration forms. This software has direct access to the NSS Membership Database and uses PayPal to charge credit cards in real-time, saving HQ staff time.
- Removed an unnecessary XML command line from the XHTML header, since it was confusing both Internet Explorer and Web Site Director, and a <META> header tag was accomplishing the same goal. Doing this, however, required replacing of many old <CENTER> tags with <TABLE ALIGN=“CENTER”> since Internet Explorer would otherwise center all non-justified text in table cells. (Firefox has happy either way.)
- As was previously done for the online forms themselves, converted all online form Web response templates files from HTML to XHTML format. This is to ensure response Web pages display properly on all browsers since they can be sent to the W3C validator to check for formatting errors.
- On the short list of online forms to be completed shortly after ISDC, the new Feedback Form and a requested Automatic-Charge Donation Form are competing for first place, followed by a special New Member form for people joining NSS to qualify for NASA Federal Credit Union membership (averaging hundreds per month).
- On the form-processing side, released NODAC version 0.C (hex version 12) in late December (two months later than desired), and made some initial uploads (for the Banner Contest) associated with Version 0.D. Changes included a few bug fixes and minor enhancements, a general cleanup of NSS function files (reducing source lines by 7 percent), plus support for the two NSS online Contest Forms. Some specifics:
- Added “file\_funs.php4” with many PHP functions for handling online form requests for file download and especially file uploads. Incorporated (and robustly tested) numerous checks to ensure the safety of the CyberTeams host server and the accuracy of the file upload operation.
- Added function “NSS\_Handle\_Down\_Database” to send an email notice to Online Form Admins and feedback to the user if the Database is not available.
- Revised existing and added new named constants and email addresses for online form notice recipients to match the new common internal “\_xxx\_OLF\_Notice@nss.org” email address aliases in the NSS email configuration files. Now, online form notice recipients can be changed without editing the PHP files.

- Continued to provide monthly online form metrics reports to the Board of Directors, though it slacked off after the New Year due to other priorities and lack of sufficient feedback from Directors and other users.

### **NSS Web Forums, Blogs, Wikis, and other Web Goodies**

- Our previous Web forum (BBS) capability continues to be off-line due to security issues with the chosen 3rd-party software package “phpbb”. Our Web logging (blogging) capability, via the software package “Movable Type” is still operational but with little administrative oversight and support.
- Gary Barnhard continued to maintain and provide administrative oversight and training for the Wiki capability. Numerous Wikis have been grouped into a WikiPharm at <http://nssdocs.xisp.net/nsswiki1/>, including one at <http://nssdocs.xisp.net/nsswiki1/NssWebsiteDesignWiki> to support the Web site redesign process.
- The NSS Internet Infrastructure Task Force of Gary Barnhard, Randall Severy, and Dale Amon continues to make progress towards a secure and robust hardware and software infrastructure and working environment for the NSS Web site and email support services. It is currently revising the plan shown at the NSS Fall Meeting in Las Cruces which it hopes to present to the NSS leadership at ISDC 2007.
- Due to legal requirements, the almost “free lunch” Internet services provided by Xisp for system.nss.org (which hosts our NSS Membership Database among other vital functions) has come to an end. Starting in June, NSS must either rent or buy its own dedicated server from Xisp or obtain similar services elsewhere. Xisp performed research and presented various options, which were reviewed by the Executive Director, the NSS Treasurer, and the ISC Chair. After several discussions and some independent research, we have decided on the equivalent of a “lease-to-own” plan from Xisp. This will minimize the impact of transitioning both operationally and financially to a dedicated server, while leaving some options open for the NSS. Xisp has provided excellent services at an unbeatable price since 2004, and we are forever grateful to Barnhard & Associates, as well as to CyberTeams (for the NSS Web site), for keeping the NSS operational via the Web.

### **Final Comments**

- I would like to thank once again the small (too small) but dedicated team members of the ISC for their truly great work in enhancing the NSS Web site and other NSS internet capabilities. These members include Dale Amon, Gary Barnhard, David Brandt-Erichson (our super-star), Marianne Dyson, Bruce Mackenzie, Candace Pankanin, Randall Severy, and Arthur Smith. I also want to thank the dedicated special-ops crew of the ISDC 2007 Web site team of Carol Johnson, Stephan Prater, Jeremy Pyle, Randall Severy, Brett Silcox, Dan Stockman, George Whitesides, and no doubt others. Once again, the ISC and WOC will utilize ISDC and other events to recruit more volunteers and give our overworked team members some relief.

— Ronnie M. Lajoie, Acting Internet Services Committee Chair