

Hans-Werner Braun networking authority joins SDSC

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NETWORKING AUTHORITY JOINS SDSC

Hans-Werner Braun, an authority in communications networks, has joined the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) as a coprincipal investigator of the "CASA testbed."

This federally funded program is designed to demonstrate the feasibility of distributed supercomputing -- the simultaneous use of several supercomputers connected by a very high-speed network.

Prior to joining SDSC, Braun was manager of the Merit Computer Network's Internet Engineering Group located at the University of Michigan, and also served as a principal investigator of the NSFNET Backbone Management and Operations Project for the National Science Foundation.

While in San Diego, he is expected to maintain a close working relationship with federal networking officials as they plan for wider and faster communications networks. Among those goals is an optical-fiber network capable of transmitting information at rates of about one billion bits per second (one gigabit per second).

"The gigabit-per-second network offers new challenges to investigate the possibilities and opportunities for Very High-Speed Networking, currently in a fledgling state," said Braun.

Sid Karin, SDSC's director, said that Braun's experience would augment the center's already strong networking expertise.

"His arrival will help make SDSC one of the leading places for computer networking, both in research and development, and in operations," said Karin.

As envisioned, the CASA testbed would harness the vast computer resources of four research centers, including SDSC, to study several important scientific problems. These include a more accurate model for global climate, interactive visualization of seismic data and the simulation of chemical reactions that might yield powerful lasers.

The CASA testbed is one of five gigabit-per-second network projects being funded with \$15.8 million by the National Science Foundation and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The lead agency for the program is the non-profit Corporation for National Research Initiatives in Reston, Va.

The other three centers participating in the CASA testbed are Los Alamos National Laboratory, California Institute of Technology and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Braun, who received his engineering degree in 1978 in West Germany, worked five years in network engineering at the Regional Computing Center of the University of Cologne. He is a member of the ACM SIGCOMM, the IEEE Computer Society and the IEEE Communications Society. From February 1987 to January

1988, he, chaired the Technical Committee of the National Science Foundation's Network Program Advisory Group (NPAG-TC) and has been a member of the Internet Activities Board (IAB) since the summer of 1989. He also is a member of the Engineering Planning Group of the Federal Networking Council (FEPG), as well as the International Engineering Planning Group (IEPG).

SDSC, established in 1985 in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, is administered and operated by General Atomics at the University of California, San Diego. Its primary goal is to support leading-edge computational science and engineering for academia, industry and government. Aside from its advanced supercomputer resources, SDSC offers education, training and consulting services, in addition to fostering collaborative research and development programs.

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