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9 July 1969

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Community On-line Intelligence System

(COINS) Experiment

Status as of 25 June 1969

This paper summarizes the more significant features of COINS project status as of this date.

1. Network. The computer system or terminal station of all participating agencies except CIA/NPIC are currently operational in the network on normal work days. DIA and NSA are operational from 0800 to 1700 and Hq CIA is operational from 0800 to 1000. State and NIC terminals connected to the DIA system are available during normal DIA operational hours. CIA/NPIC temporarily withdrew from the network on 14 May to permit installation of a UNIVAC 494 in the NPIC computer system and removal of a UNIVAC 490. NPIC will not rejoin the network until approximately 1 August.

a. A series of four COINS network tests have been conducted during the past few months. In these tests each COINS participating agency has submitted at least two interrogations of files maintained in network computer systems, during a two hour period each day of the test. A record of the results of the interrogations and copies of interrogations and responses was submitted to the Computer and Communications Interface

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Panel for analysis. These tests have resulted in actions being initiated by the CCIP to correct several system faults revealed.

b. A test of the DIA to NSA COINS circuit was conducted during the week of 2 June which resulted in the revelation of a highly significant system fault. In this test, high speed line printers were installed at each end of the circuit between the respective computer systems and the communications facilities. A study of the data recorded by the printers and data received in DIA switch computer core memory showed a loss of data segments of interrogations and responses at DIA. It was ascertained that this loss was caused by the DIA IBM 2703 Transmission Control Unit which requires a four character delay between incoming data segments. This delay was not present between incoming data segments received at DIA from the external systems. Thus, segments of interrogations and responses directed to the DIA system or passing through the switch were lost. A modification is being added to each network computer system to allow the appropriate delay between segments of data transmitted to DIA.

25X1 c. [] the DIA Subsystem Manager, announced at the COINS meeting of 19 June that the DIA remote access IBM System 360/50 located in the Cafritz

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Building, Rosslyn, Virginia, would be connected into the COINS network in the near future. One intelligence information file (an index to SECRET photographic reconnaissance information) will be made available to COINS participants.



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2. Panel Activity.

a. Training. The Training Panel continues meeting monthly for coordination of training activities within the respective agencies, exchange of training documentation and discussion of mutual problems. The panel is near completion of its first products for use in the COINS community.

Among these are a catalog describing all COINS files for use as a training document and to assist in stimulating analyst interest in COINS. Descriptions of all DIA files have not yet been submitted for addition to the catalog.

b. The Airfield Panel has completed a draft of a Technical Memorandum of Agreement on joint NSA and DIA creation and maintenance of a "Eurasian Air Facilities File." This plan was forwarded to the Subsystem Managers on 28 May 1969 for formal participating agency coordination.

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c. The Test and Analysis Panel has completed a plan for gathering data during the test and analysis phase of the experiment to permit an evaluation. The only remaining task is a redesign and improvement of a user log form for use during the T&A phase.

d. The Computer and Communication Interface Panel continues activities such as those described in paragraph 1 to correct and improve system operation and efficiency.

e. Ad Hoc Software Security Panel:

Task IIIa of the panel charter states, "Review the computer software security procedures currently, or soon to be available in each of the computer systems of the COINS network, and to determine to what extent they are adequate to protect the system from deliberate or inadvertent violations of need-to-know." The panel has completed a first draft report of its findings on this aspect on 24 June 1969.

3. Project Manager.

a. COINS Goal and Objectives. A statement of the COINS goal and a list of specific objectives to replace those published in Part 1, COINS Master Plan, 2 December, 1968, have been completed and concurred in by all Subsystem Managers. In addition, criteria for the evaluation of each objective have been developed. These objectives will

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be recommended to the Director, NSA, as COINS Executive Agent, for submission to the DCI.

b. Draft COINS Operational Procedures on the admission of new COINS participants and on data standards have been completed and distributed to Subsystem Managers for review.

(1) The procedure on data standards seeks to achieve some degree of commonality among the COINS participating agencies in the method of recording data elements in the COINS files maintained in local computer systems. Such standards are required to simplify user formulation of interrogations and interpretation of data elements in responses.

(2) The procedure on the admission of new participants establishes procedures and criteria by which additional organizations may be added to the COINS network.

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