X.500 Directory Service

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What is X.500?

- An international standard for a globally distributed directory.
- Provides basic addressing information.
- Provides detailed information on countries, organizations, people, and resources (e.g., where printers are).
- Present pilot project able to access information in 14 countries.
X.500 defines:

- The interaction between user agents and a server.
- The interaction between servers over a wide area network.
Advantages of X.500

- The first standardized inter-organization directory service.
- Fast becoming a world-wide standard. Pilot project in use in 14 countries.
- The only way to access extensive, distributed, global information. Other services presently available offer only limited information.

User Agents / Interfaces Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pod</th>
<th>Uses the X-windows system. Simple point and click interface makes it user friendly. Accessible to novice users.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sd</td>
<td>Screen oriented interface with the same functionality as Pod.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dish</td>
<td>A powerful tool enabling advanced users to access extensive information and customize their queries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred</td>
<td>Uses a command line. Specializes in email and other addressing information. A user friendly front-end to dish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xwp</td>
<td>X-windows interface that supports user friendly naming.</td>
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Immediate Goals

- Provide an operational X.500 backbone for NASA Science Network users.
- Integrate non-Unix based User Agents. Macintosh, PC, VAX/VMS, IBM Profs.
- Establish X.500 access points and provide access control lists where appropriate.

Future Goals

- A GOSIP requirement.
- Access more vital and detailed information. X.500 users will be able to access information on application processes, entities, and devices.
- Integrate with non-Science Network X.500 directory servers.