X.500
Directory Service

John Yin

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NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035

John Yin, Communications and Network Development Branch, EDN, M/S: 233-18

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.

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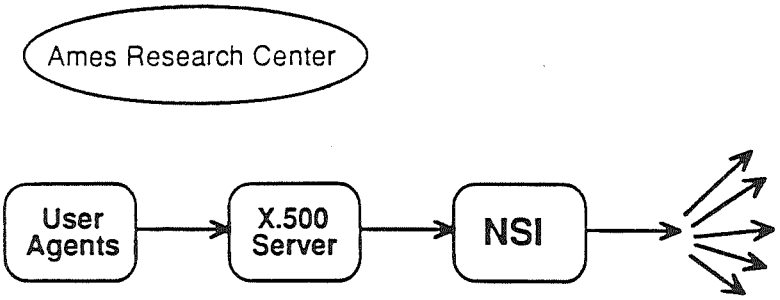

X.500 defines:

- The interaction between user agents and a server.
- The interaction between servers over a wide area network.

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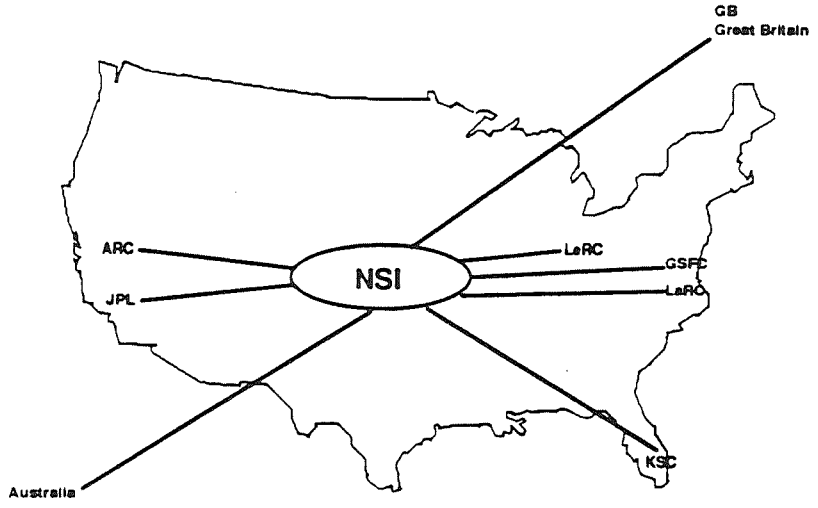

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Advantages of X.500

- 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.

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User Agents / Interfaces Available

Pod	Uses the X-windows system. Simple point and click interface makes it user friendly. Accessible to novice users.
Sd (Screen Directory)	Screen oriented interface with the same functionality as Pod.
Dish	A powerful tool enabling advanced users to access extensive information and customize their queries.
Fred (FRont-End to Dish)	Uses a command line. Specializes in email and other addressing information. A user friendly front-end to dish.
Xwp (White Pages interface for X.500 System)	X-windows interface that supports user friendly naming.

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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.

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John Yan, Communications and Network Development Branch, EDN, M/S: 233-18

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.

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