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NSA review
completed

13 February 1969

FROM : CIA COINS Subsystem Manager
SUBJECT: Objectives of the COINS Experiment

1. Design, develop and implement an experimental system which will produce the necessary data to test the feasibility and utility of an interagency computer based information system with on-line remote access capability (to support the intelligence analyst) Following are subobjectives which are implicitly derived from the primary objective.

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- a. To isolate, define and determine solutions for the technical and security problems incident to designing, installing, operating, using and maintaining an interagency computer-based, on-line intelligence retrieval system.
- b. To provide practical training and actual experience for intelligence analysts in the use of an interagency on-line intelligence retrieval system.
- c. To ascertain the essential characteristics of a file which make it suitable for inclusion in an interagency on-line intelligence retrieval system.
- d. To determine those elements of the total system design which encourage and facilitate analyst usage and those elements which discourage or hinder usage.
- e. To collect the necessary data on file usage, system efficiency and reliability and user reaction to permit an evaluation of the feasibility and utility of operational implementation of a COINS-like system.

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2. Determine the elements and attributes which would be critical to the success of a full system for continuing community operations, and develop objectives and specifications for an operational system.



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FM:

AA Objectives

1. Design, develop, and implement a system for the COINS Experiment which will produce the necessary data to test the feasibility and permit and evaluate the utility of an inter-connected computer based information system with remote access capability. A design objective will be to provide an average response time of fifteen minutes or less to all interrogations.

This too is beyond the Experiment

2. Determine the elements and attributes which would be critical to the success of a full system for continuing community operations and develop objectives and specifications for an operational system. Some of the salient features that would be included above would be network security, user training data standardization, a common network query language and criteria for interagency files.

3. By means of the experiment, collect data to show whether the community's capability to exploit intelligence information can be improved ~~by making~~.

a. ^{By making} More timely intelligence information available to analysts in participating agency via remote access network of computers;

b. By obtaining more accurate information through the resolution of data conflicts via high speed transmission and manipulation capability.

4. By means of the experiment endeavor to collect data,

a. To show that better utilization of resources, including time, men, and machines can be obtained through the use of selected community files established and maintained in one system;

b. To demonstrate the potential flexibility that can be achieved in a COINS-type network such that the management of intelligence production can be enhanced by having adequate storage, manipulation, transmission and distribution of data immediately available.

3+4 are rather ambitious and I feel unmeasurable.

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