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State Dept. 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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GROUP 1
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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.



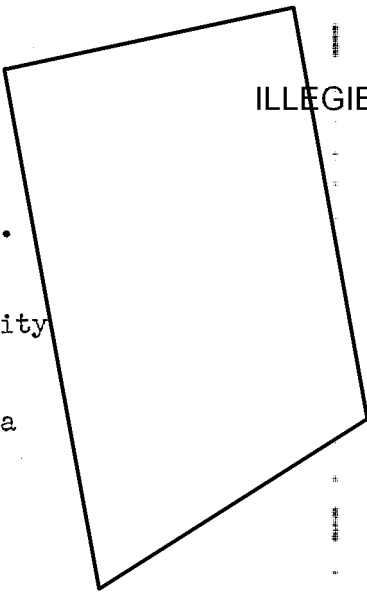
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AA Objectives

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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COINS LOG

10 February 1969

^AThe meeting of the COINS committee was held on the 7th of February at NPIC at 10:00 A.M. [redacted] had the flu, so there was no DIA representative present. [redacted] was taking a physical so there was no NIC representative present. However, [redacted] mentioned that the NIC will receive their equipment to put them on COINS next week.

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Test. COINS sub-system will query all of each others' files during the week of 10-14 February. The attached paper describes the test in detail. (Separately Circulated)

Files. A rough draft of the complete identification of all of the files on COINS will be sent out this week. However, the final production will not be ready for quite a while thereafter. As an example of what this file identification is to look like, copies of the CIA file [redacted] was passed around as an example. The example is attached. There was some discussion on the security classification of this example. It appears to be overclassified.

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Contact for Assistance on Communications Task in COINS Master Plan. [redacted] next described the contract which he hopes to let for assistance in meeting the deadlines for two of the tasks, "communications" and "operational capabilities of network" for the fiscal year 1969. Tasks in the COINS Master Plan. He also discussed the various points made in the work statement for the contract. The only software that the contractors will see is

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Interface software. The proposal which the contractor gave him mentioned security software, retrieval systems software, etc., but he crossed all these out because the contractor will only have a SECRET clearance. (See reference) George was concerned that there was no DIA representative present because the DIA switch will be the key item in this contract. This switch still gives him a great deal of concern. George is taking this approach (that is, with contract aid) because he has no talent pool available to help him meet the deadline. He does have a second group composed of NSA talent, rather than contractors, looking at what the ideal community system should be.

George felt that he does not get as close to the Interface Panel as he would like. It takes a long time to get their minutes but he feels that they are changing some of the little nitty gritty to accommodate the various agency systems in COINS.

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recognized some truth in this, but felt that the task must be done and only a contractor could stick to the job because he had no other priorities. A second difficulty was caused by the fact that there are some NSA planners of future communications laying out ways to study their agency's communication in the future. COINS would be a natural part of their study, so their efforts might be in paralled with the contractor's efforts, and they would get in each other's way. He already felt some antagonism from NSA people because they felt he was using up all their time,

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George added that contractors perhaps may not study the log because of the clearance problem. NSA does have some open end contractors and he might use them instead [] if there is too much trouble. George has some objections to the use of contractors per se, but feels in this case there is no other alternative.

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Draft Charter on Security Panel. George felt that []

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[] group's production is going to be very long-ranged and broadly based. He feels there is a need for a group to examine COINS

security aspects, of software in particular right now. []

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reported that the CIA member will be [] The draft charter

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and list of members of this security panel are in an attached document.

[] objected to the wording of paragraph c (recommendations)

and each one of the three recommendations were rewritten. Corrections are on the attached documents. The chief change is in Number 3.

Bob felt this panel would not have the time to write any software and the recommendation was thus rewritten. All of the substitutions were accepted and are more down to earth.

At this point we took a mental break before starting the CMP objectives. There was considerable chatting on the CCC, [] report on the CIA test on the CCC, about head of the line indexing in CRS, retrieval systems in general, and the [] system which has the entire text on-line.

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Objectives. [] expressed approval of the Support Staff's objectives. (The third set of the attachment). He wished to substitute these objectives to the ones in the COINS Master Plan. The NSA subsystem manager disagreed; he liked the December CMP objectives and

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25X1 stated that he would have a coordination problem within NSA if they attempt to change their objectives. He thought that the community was not in a position to change objectives now so soon before the test and analysis period began. [] replied that he did not feel as severe in objections to objectives 3 & 4 as succeeding correspondence between agencies would indicate. He had put in the footnote to express a different outlook on the objectives and regretted that they later became such an issue. George said that if we list objectives we should be able to understand what it is that we talk about. How do we measure the objectives? What makes an objective a failure or a success? Young also did not like the way that George had rewritten the original PFIAB charge. He thought PFIAB has focussed on the experiment alone in the 1965 paper. [] says we are in a different ballgame than ^{the one that} the PFIAB originally conceived. They wanted outside agency terminals to the [] system in a simple experiment. But for various reasons, now has ^{we} a complex tele-communications system. 25X1

George gave Attachment 4 as his feeling as to what is the most important COINS objective. He still believes in ultimate goals rather than short-range ^{ones}. Young felt that CIA still doesn't want to go that far. Charlie Stein, who ^{no} only had a chance to read the objectives ^{until} at the meeting, said that he was still not quite sure, there seems to be both intermediate and long-range objectives for COINS. The first set concerns the technical feasibility, and the second set customer satisfaction. But after you have proven the first, then what? How can you prove the second? [] said that if 25X1

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NSA cannot accept the Support Staff's objectives, let's just use a rewritten version of Objectives 1 and 2 in the COINS Master Plan. There followed quite a long, almost philosophical, discussion on what were the real objectives of COINS -- technical or people. NSA is still worried about the technical difficulties and feels that they are not settled yet.

Meeting was adjourned until next week when a meeting will be held at NPIC at 1300 hours on the 14th (Friday). Subject will be the continuation of the discussion on objectives. Each COINS Sub-system manager will bring a paper which describes what the considers the Number One objective and how it should be approached.

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