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5 MAY 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Henry P. Mahoney  
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: Laser Disk Working Group

REFERENCE: Note for D/OL fm D/OIT, dtd 8 Apr 86

1. We were not aware of any of the formalized actions, outlined in reference, regarding the tracking laser disk technology.

2. Prior to releasing my proposal for the creation of a Laser Disk Working Group, representatives from the Printing and Photography Division (P&PD), Office of Logistics, contacted individuals from the Office of the Executive Director, Office of Central Reference, Office of Information Technology (OIT), and the DI Management Staff. The P&PD people apparently contacted the "wrong folks" because none of them indicated an awareness of any formal monitoring of laser disk technology. In fact, the working group proposal has been welcomed by several components--the Office of Information Services has asked to have four representatives on the group and the DI has asked to join in. The Office of Security has already nominated its representative to the working group.

3. Based on the receptivity concerning the proposal and the wide interest in laser disk technology, I recommend that a formal working group be established as suggested in my memorandum. Given the unique and rather specific interests in laser disk technology on the part of a number of Directorate of Administration components, this working group would certainly be in an excellent position to assess the utilization of this technology. While P&PD has offered to head up the group, I have no problem with OIT playing this role--we would merely request that P&PD be represented.



Henry P. Mahoney

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Attachment:  
Reference

cc: AD/OIT

OL 11038-86



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8 April 1986

NOTE FOR: Director, OL

Hank:


The enclosed memo is certainly a commentary on the way we do business here in the Agency. I was not aware that OL/P&PD was monitoring laser disk technology. I was aware that OCR, OD&E, ORD and OIT (read ODP) have been tracking the technology for up to ten years. I know that DO/SE Division, DO/IMS and OIS have recently been interested in what OCR might do in this field and were thinking about testbeds. The Information Systems Board has discussed the topic more than once in the past two years.

A year or more ago, OCR turned to OD&E to determine if they could come up with an optical disk solution for biographic files. It was found to cost too much and have other problems and the effort ended a few months ago. (OD&E had considered using optical disk for storage but finally gave up for the time being.) Now, OIT has been asked by OCR to develop a way to capture biographic files in electronic form (not optical disk) as part of SAFE.

I believe the bottom line for now was determined by the EXDIR several months ago when it was decided, for fiscal reasons, to let industry develop optical disk - we would watch and see what happens.


As you can see from the comments above, OIT is watching laser disk (optical disk) technology as a normal part of our business. Our mission includes watching such things. It's apparent we should share better.

In light of these comments, what do you think?

  
William F. Donnelly 

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03 APR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Services  
 Director of Information Technology  
 Director of Security

FROM: Henry P. Mahoney  
 Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Creation of a 'Laser Disk' Working Group

1. It has recently come to my attention that laser (optical) disk technology is nearing a point where it may prove invaluable to Office, Directorate, and Agency requirements for improved methods of information storage and retrieval. It is my understanding that several Agency components are currently exploring applications that are pertinent only to their unique requirements. Instead, it is suggested that all interested parties combine their talents in a centralized working group for the purpose of defining requirements, information sharing, establishing standards to prevent the procurement of incompatible systems, defining unified security procedures, and to explore all potential uses of this highly flexible medium.

2. For the past several years the Office of Logistics, Printing and Photography Division (OL/P&PD) has aggressively pursued the monitoring of developments in laser disk technology in a variety of applications ranging from electronic publishing to interactive training systems. In addition, P&PD personnel have represented the Agency at many conferences, seminars, and federal 'standards' committee meetings regarding this emerging technology. For this reason I suggest that P&PD become the focal point for this working group.

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3. Please forward comments and/or the names of employees to serve on the laser disk working group to  Room 154, Printing & Photography Bldg. If you require additional information about laser disk technology please contact  on extension  or green line

Henry P. Mahoney

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cc: Deputy Director for Administration

OL 11026-86

