Notes from NAAUG Systems Administration Special Discussion Groups
Tuesday, June 15, 2004
Moderator – Christine Moulen
Recorder – Laura Morse

As no questions or suggestions for discussion were sent prior to the meeting, Christine suggested the meeting be open discussion.

Has anyone created a log of which users have logged in to the system? This information could be found in the pc_ser log, which most sites have turned off.   The pc_server in version 16 and above logs the windows login of users, but not the Aleph login. Jerry Specht will check into whether the Aleph login can be added to the pc_server log.

Has anyone developed a day to day task list (i.e. system admin notebook? In Release 12, there was a section of the guide devoted to this.   There is more information about this in the Doc Portal (File Maintenance Procedures). Jerry is working of a Preventative Maintenance document – which covers file cleanup but doesn't have joblist specs.

Is there a jobs and what they do document? Jerry has a document like this and will send it to the sys admin list.   Others have developed Nagios plugins to see if all jobs are up and running. Scripts have also been developed to log people off/kill any processes before the backup starts. These will be sent to the script ftp site.

How often do people backup? MIT does a hot backup 4 nights, cold 1. MIT did a restore with their DBA group.   Jerry reminded people not to rely on an oracle backup to restore an individual file – oracle restores the whole database. You should always back up and individual file before work is done.

*Can p-manage-18 be updated to track changes/export records before the job updates records? Can y*ou *use z00h?* Christine recommended using p_print_03 to "print" records before p_manage_18 is run. You can use p-manage-36 as backup for input file.   It was recommended that people swap out versions of tab_expands if different expands are needed for different loads.

What kind of regular Oracle maintenance should be done? If there are no negative implications for unlimited extents, should people change to unlimited extents? In conversion, you should adjust table size and extents*.*   See "Documenting and Configuring Space Problems" for more info.   The problem is solved in v. 16 as Oracle 91 handles the problem.

Should index spaces also be separate table spaces in Aleph to prevent space problems? Jerry will post an example to the sys adm list.

Will 14.7 conversion to 16 cause space problems? Adjacency set to "Y" will increase space needs by 20%.   The Solaris guide gives hints on running Oracle on Solaris system. Hints gave one site a 15% increase in i/o performance. This was a dynamic command, which will be sent to the sys adm list.

How long should files be kept in scratch areas? Sites doing various things – some zip all files, some delete files after 6 weeks, some script that everything over 7 days is deleted, some keep 3 months of print.   Jerry recommends that last clean run of indexing job logs always be kept.

Shouldn't jobs stop when fatal errors have occurred? Jerry mentioned that a PRB is out on this topic to Israel programming.