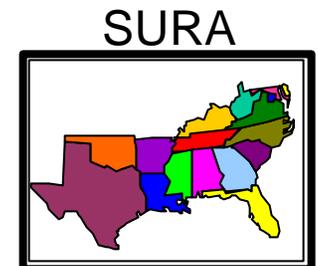


"Mbone" -H.323 Gateway Development

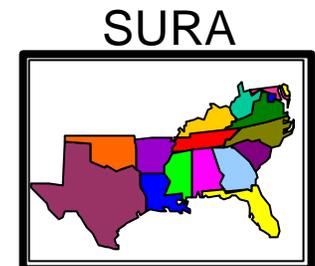
Questions of Feasibility, Necessity, & Practicality

Mary Fran Yafchak
IT Program Coordinator, SURA
maryfran@sura.org



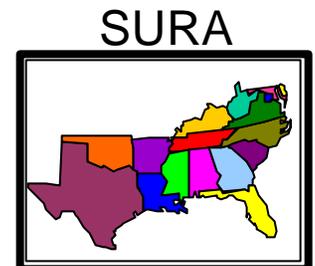
About SURA

- US-based 501(c)3
- Founded in 1980 to run Jefferson Lab ([still does; see www.jlab.org](http://www.jlab.org)) ; later built SURANet (sold to BBN in 1995)
- Currently a consortium of 53 research universities from 15 southeastern states & the District of Columbia
- For more info: <http://www.sura.org>



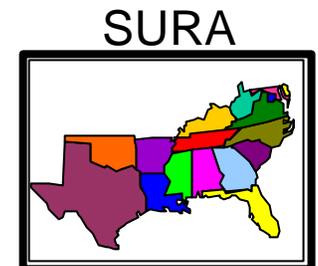
SURA Mission

- Foster excellence in scientific research
- Strengthen the scientific and technical capabilities of the nation and the Southeast
- Provide outstanding training opportunities for the next generation of scientists and engineers



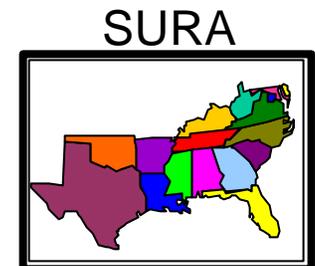
Reasons for SURA's Interest

- Increasing adoption of collaborative conferencing within the SURA region
- Different user communities being approached by different VC efforts
- SURA's desire to avoid creation of "communication islands" as collaborative conferencing evolves
- We just love it when people get along...



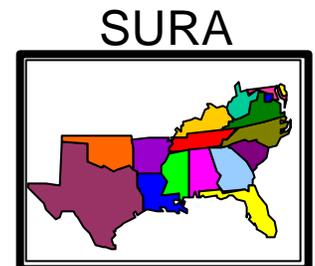
The SURA Gateway meeting

- Sponsored by SURA to explore the feasibility of developing a “vanilla” Mbone-H.323 gateway
- Held Sept. 27, 2000. Attended by: [AccessGrid](#), [RADVision](#), [ViDe](#), [VRVS](#), [SURA](#)
- Minimum results, a final report:
 - www.sura.org/info_tech/gateways/VC_gateway_report.html
- Other possible results:
 - Collaborative project and/or product development?



Goals of the Meeting

- Introduce key technology developers to each other and each others' work
- Evaluate the technical feasibility of developing a gateway - generic or between specific implementations
- Ascertain each organization's view on the practicality/necessity of gateway development and on potential collaboration



So, How'd We Do?

Goal 1: Introduce key technology developers to each other and each others' work

Results:



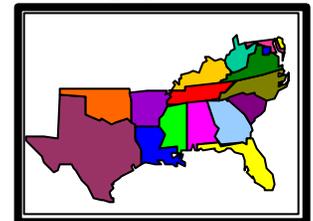
So, How'd We Do?

Goal 2: Evaluate the technical feasibility of developing a gateway

Results:

- Limited functionality gateway(s) could fairly easily developed between H.323 and specific Mbone tool-based implementations.
- “Full-featured” gateways would present many technical challenges, some that might not be overcome without violating the H.323 standard.
- The user functionality of the Mbone tool-based implementations could likely be duplicated with an H.323 implementation.

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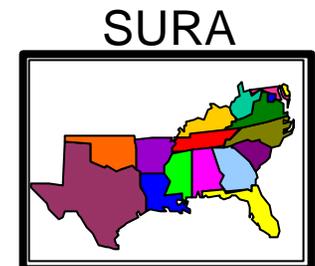
So, How'd We Do?

Goal 3: Ascertain each organizations' view on the practicality/necessity & potential collaboration

Results:

On the necessity of the gateway -

- Neither AG nor RADVision see the necessity for this type of gateway.
- VRVS has already felt the need within their own user community and will be continuing their development as directed by that need.
- ViDe believes it is difficult to estimate or predict the need for this gateway but believes that these user communities need to interact.



So, How'd We Do?

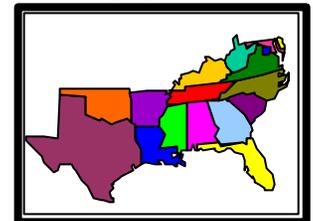
Goal 3: Ascertain each organizations' view on the practicality/necessity & potential collaboration

Results:

On the potential for collaboration -

- Universally, "vanilla" gateway development is outside the scope of current work; could not be undertaken without additional resources.
- All indicated their appreciation of the meeting and their willingness to collaborate further if resources could be found.
- Some groups expressed interest in particular aspects of each others' work and an intention to follow up individually.

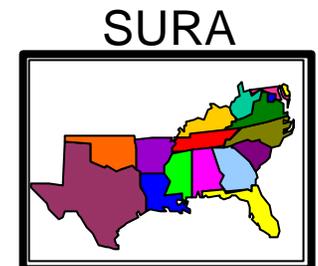
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Recommended Next Steps

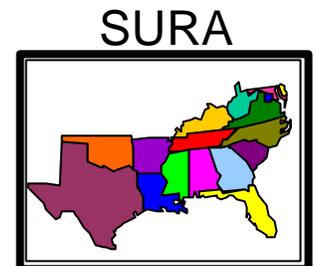
A closer look at some key questions:

- 1) What is the existing and potential overlap between the user communities for each of these technologies?
- 2) What is the desire/demand for gateway capability on the part of the overlapping user communities identified above?
- 3) What resources would be required (time, money, expertise) to develop a gateway application and/or service that would be useful to the SURA community?



What does this mean for AG?

Hmmm...



Questions or Comments?

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