

CORPORATE APPLICATIONS

Stats & Facts

Corp Apps Pilot at Missions A Success

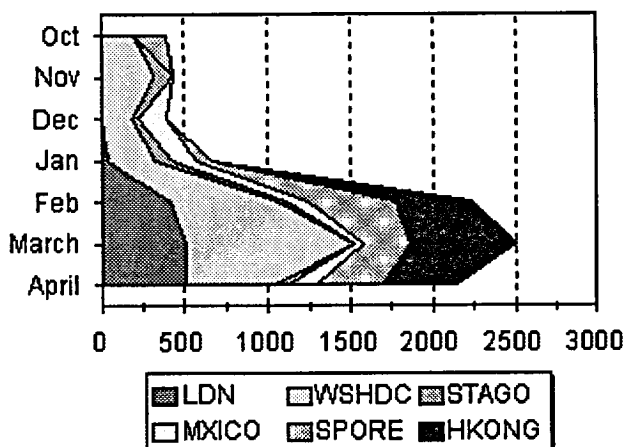
Since November 1995, the Corporate Applications have been installed and piloted in six different missions: Santiago, Mexico City, Singapore, Hong Kong, London and Washington. The missions were chosen in order to get a representative cross-section of operational size, physical distance from HQ, and available bandwidth for data transmission. Among other objectives, the pilot served to assess the performance of the applications in missions.

The results of the performance testing (i.e., how much time it takes for the data to come to a mission from HQ) proved very positive. In fact, high bandwidth missions (London, Washington) had response times similar to those at Lester B. Pearson, while medium bandwidth sites (Mexico and Hong Kong) had response times similar to those at Vanier. As for low bandwidth areas (Santiago and Singapore), response was slightly slower, but the users found it acceptable given the value of the

data and the functionality provided by the CorpApps. It is worth mentioning that many sites are currently looking to upgrade their communications infrastructure and, therefore, application performance should respond accordingly.

In general, the individuals we met in the missions were receptive and eager to learn about the Applications. The technical support staff were helpful during the installation of the Apps, and in scheduling demonstrations and training sessions with users. Few problems were encountered during the installation and subsequent maintenance.

As the following growth chart shows, the total usage of Corporate Applications in the six missions has steadily increased. [Note that both London and Washington had been installed in an earlier pilot, and have responded well to this latest upgrade.]



When asked about how the Corporate Applications have worked out so far for users in London, Peter Bean, Systems Administrator, told us that "the users are more than happy with what has been provided." Kate Jones, SA in Washington,

commented, "It's working very well...users are happy about getting a (central) file number for their correspondence...and OGD has simplified many users' lives for communicating with their colleagues in other government departments."

The big "winners" to date have been Correspondence Register, OGD E-Mail and Staff Profiles. Washington also makes heavy use of their customized Conference Rooms application. It is also worth noting that the Trade Plans System was installed in all classic SIGNET missions in March-April, and has since been used by the Trade staff to enter their plans for the upcoming year.

Given the success of the pilot, SXID (formerly STED) is now preparing a plan for the deployment of Corporate Applications to all missions by the fall of this year. The staff of SXID would like to thank all participants for their co-operation and feedback during the pilot, and are looking forward to working with them and other missions in providing the Corp Apps to all SIGNET users.

If you would like more information about our offerings, or wish to communicate your suggestions about the current applications, or even proposals for new applications, please e-mail us at our CorpApps Support mailbox.

Cheers to all! "Choose to use...Corporate Applications!"