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The Information Infrastructure Program (IIF) for Research, Development and Higher Education (1986-1993)

Ferenc Springer

IIF Co-ordination Bureau

IIF is a program supported by the National Committee for Technological Development (OMFB), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Hungarian National Science Foundation and the Ministry for Public Education, for establishing computer network based information services for Hungarian universities, higher education, research & development institutions.

The first phase of the IIF Program started in 1986. The original plan included to set up a computer network as well as provide information and communication services. The majority of our resources were spent on the acquisition of intelligent terminals (PC-s) and LAN-s. the design and development of the packet switching communication system. Our efforts at that time were also burdened with COCOM limitations.

The first phase of the IIF Program has been successfully implemented. All the important universities, academic institutions and some large companies joined the IIF community.

By now, a network based information system is at the disposal of several thousands of users. The system is based on international and de facto standards (X.25, XXX, UUCP), ensuring the interaction with international networks. The IIF Program provides important services (national e-mail service, bulletin board, file transmission) and full screen access to a wide range of data bases.

Now the program is in its second phase (1991-1994). The basic development concepts focus on the progress of information technology.

Most important elements of the concepts include the development of the data network, the installation of regional and disciplinary centers, installation of wide area network. We strive at enhancing the possibilities of the electronic mailing system and the database service. Also, IIF supports educational and training programs for users and professionals as well.

Special efforts are taken to forward the use of unified standards in electronic mailing, directory services, interactive access, file transfer services. The services characterising the co-operative systems should be established and widely used.