CSE/EE 461
Autumn 1997
Technology Review Project
Phase 1 due any time before Friday, October 31 in class.
Phase 2 due Wednesday, December 10th in class.

The purpose of this project is for you to thoroughly understand a new emerging network technology. In addition, you will learn to critically evaluate a technology in terms of the theory and engineering principles behind it. Secondarily, you may learn what will make the technology succeed or fail in the market place.

In the first phase you will make a 200 word proposal about what technology you would like to evaluate and why. You may suggest alternatives. By Friday, November 7, I will respond to you by accepting your proposal, picking one of your alternatives, or suggesting a new technology.

In the second phase you will complete a paper of no more than 5 printed pages. Your paper should be well researched, well organized, and written in good professional English. Your paper should contain citations to the resource material that you used in your research.

A main criterion in evaluating your paper is the quality of your critical analysis of the technology. If you only look at company literature, you will not succeed because the company's view is biased. Thus you must find other resources and use your own knowledge of networks to build your analysis. Naturally, you will want to include an explanation of what the technology does and how it does it. A comparison with competing technologies would be desired.

The technology you choose can be as narrow as the product of a particular company or as broad as a new network standard. In addition, you can choose an existing new product or a technology that is still in the research phase. Examples of the latter are fully optical networks with optical switches and low orbit satellite networks. Computer network technology would include all the topics found in Tanenbaum including topics like cryptography and data compression.

Your research should consist of exploring books, research papers, RFCs, library databases, trade journals, company brochures, and academic and company web sites. Here are a few key resources that you may use:

1. INSPEC - Database for the physical sciences, engineering and computer science. Available through the University of Washington Libraries.

2. IETF - The Internet Engineering Task Force, http://www.ietf.org/. Where you can find RFCs and other documents about the Internet.

3. Periodicals

   (a) Business Communications Review: www.bcr.com

(b) IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking: www.acm.org/ton

(c) IEEE Internet Computing:

(d) Network World: www.nwfusion.com

(e) Communications Week: www.commweek.com

Good luck!