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THE *Open* GROUP

July 18, 2003

To Whom It May Concern.

We have worked with David Bakken for a number of years. The earliest interactions were a result of our having complementary projects within DARPA and the US Air Force Research Laboratories programs. We had numerous technical discussions about integrating aspects of our projects for generally hypothetical goals.

The Open Group was asked in 1998 to lead several organizations, including Dave's group at BBN, in integrating a set of DARPA Quorum Program projects as a demonstration of the capabilities of QoS technology. Although the time frame was tight and each organization had numerous other projects competing for resources, our team was able to complete the application and demonstrate it at a showplace event during the summer of 1998. In addition to successfully integrating components from his own project components, Dave was particularly helpful in assisting with the integration of other technology from Honeywell Laboratories and the academic community.

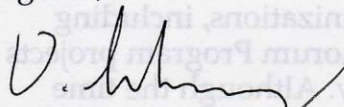
Although our two organizations were oriented towards different technology transfer targets through the remainder of the Quorum Program, we continued to interact with Dave as part of The Open Group's integration efforts. Several BBN components were included, but the AQuA provides a particularly relevant example of Dave's assistance. The AQuA component provides fault-tolerant access to CORBA distributed objects. Although the AQuA component was originally designed and implemented at the University of Illinois, we found that Dave was particularly helpful in our integration efforts. The most important aspects of this assistance was that Dave was able to view the component in an abstract manner: he could intellectually separate the capabilities of the existing component from the implementation details as well as from future possibilities. This allowed us to identify an appropriate role for AQuA within the overall integration application. In addition, Dave's experience in previously integrating AQuA into BBN's QuO system was particularly beneficial in overcoming the inevitable problems that arise from prototype implementations.

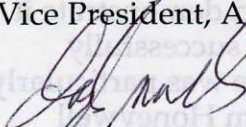
As a result of our positive impressions of Dave's capabilities, we invited him to join our team for participating in DARPA's ARMS Program on adaptive middleware. Dave brought a cohesive group of academic researchers to our team and then led that team during our proposal preparation process. Dave was again helpful in conceiving an integrated view of components, and in this case, he was particularly adept at working with us in formulating a highly integrated objective for the overall project that still allowed each sub-team to work in parallel toward the overall goal.

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The Open Group is a computer industry consortium that provides certification on adherence to open standards for computer-based systems. Our interactions with Dave have occurred in the context of The Open Group's research group, which investigates emerging technologies for the purpose of identifying and fostering standards. We have always found that Dave was highly knowledgeable about technical aspects of his projects and capable of contemplating additional and innovative applications of the technology. In addition, he was always enthusiastic about learning other technologies as well as advocating the capabilities of his own projects. We would welcome working with Dave on other projects in the future.

Regards,


David M. Lounsbury
Vice President, Advanced Research & Innovation


Douglas Wells
Research Director