Replacement of ACRI Computer File Server (TOOLMAN)

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Aims:

1. To replace the computer file server (TOOLMAN) at ACRI Narrabri.

Background:

Prior to the commencement of this project, CRDC provided funds to replace the ageing VAX equipment with modern servers, which are accessed via a sophisticated Local Area Network (LAN). This program has also seen the replacement of dumb terminals with powerful PC workstations on the users' desks, giving them greater processing power and access to secure file storage. The servers are now used more for file (backup and storage of data and information), print and communication services including e-mail and the Internet.

The ACRI computer systems manager identified that the warranty on the existing file server (TOOLMAN) expired in June 1998. He also identified that the cost of maintaining that server far outweighed the price purchase of a new server. Several quotes were obtained for a replacement server that would provide the capacity to meet existing and future needs of ACRI. The machine selected for purchase was a Dual Pentium Pro computer similar to the existing file server 'SICALA' and has been installed in the computer room at ACRI. The replacement machine is much quicker and stores more data than the previous file server.

Industry Significance:

CRDC has for many years supported the development and maintenance of computer systems at Australian Cotton Research Institute (ACRI), Narrabri. These computer systems have benefited all research programs through their use in data processing, storage, statistical analysis, modeling and the development of end-user packages. The most cost effective option for maintaining file, print and communication (e.g. e-mail) services at ACRI is to replace existing file servers when their warranty terminates, with new file servers. The cost of maintaining old file servers far outweighs the cost of replacing these servers with a new one.