Plan for Programming Contest Use of CS Machines
June 21, 1999

Practice Sessions
There will be a team practice each Saturday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm on 9/11 through 3/11 in McBryde 116 (every Saturday when 116 is normally closed).

Local Contest  September 4
Local contest will use 116, 118, 124 and the grad lab (The grad lab would only be used IF the other rooms are full, and only by grad students). This would only be a few machines at most, the grad lab would not be closed. The contest will not use 116A. The local contest will not require modification to software on any machines in these rooms, and the machines will not have to be moved. Furthermore, the local contest will be held when the undergrad lab is closed, so rooms 116, 118, and 124 would normally be unused the day of the local contest. Use of 3-4 rooms should allow us to include any VT student who wants to compete.

Opening the contest up for the entire VT community gives the ACM additional strength to get money from the university.

Preparations for Regional Contest:
At the end of September or the start of October, a team of engineers from Cal Tech, (out-sourced by IBM), will come to campus to install and test CS² software for the contest. They will install special software on a dedicated server obtained by Sallie that will be used for the contest. (This software has been used in other contests, is Java based, but has never been used under UNIX.) The dedicated server will be located in McB 133. This will alleviate the previous problems encountered with using the existing 116/118 server. A timeline for testing the contest software is being established with IBM.

The impact of the Cal Tech team visit on 116/118 is unknown. Cal Tech engineers must install a client on one or two FreeBSD machine for testing.

Regional Contest (6 November)
McB 118, containing NT machines, will remain open as usual, and is unaffected by the regional contest. McB 118 is normally closed on Saturday, and will be closed but not used on November 6.

McB 116A, containing servers, will not be used by the programming contest. So the lab's regular servers should be able to remain up during the regional contest. This is a big change from previous years when the contest reconfigured our server for their use. This means FreeBSD machines can keep running for Layne for as long as we have somewhere in the cslab domain to set them down (e.g.,128.). This will allow telnet access for classes.

The regional contest will use only 110, 116 (but NOT 116A), and 124. McB 110 will be used for the judges, and several tables will need to be found to put in 110.

On Thursday, 11/5 the following events will occur:
♦ Cal Tech team flies in and the 116,124 labs will close at midnight.

On Friday, 11/5 the following events will occur:
♦ We will close 116 and 124 the entire day. (No classes are scheduled in 124 on Fridays, so this will not affect class meetings for any course, such as CS1206.)
♦ Install IBM’s CS² client on 124 PCs This can be done on 11/5. May require cloning of the drives.
♦ Install new user accounts on UNIX machines in 124 only or on the contest server, (on which is unknown at this time). This can be done any time through out the semester
♦ Remove a bunch of machines from tables in 116 and store them in 118
♦ Move some PCs from 124 and 116 to 110 and 118.
Modify the UNIX server or contest server for 124 to allow printing to 5 new printers.

On Saturday, 11/6 the following events will occur:
- Return machines in 110 and 116 to 124; replace original 116 PCs on tables.

On Sunday, 11/7 the following events will occur:
- Reclone the FreeBSD machines from 124
- Modify the UNIX server for 124 to disallow printing to 5 new printers.
- Open the lab at 4:00 p.m. on 11/7. [Or should lab instead open on 11/8?]

The only inconvenience of running the regional contest "should be" closing 116 and 124 on 11/5, and its subsequent impact on classes. The following steps will be taken to notify faculty:
- Email notices by Sallie
- Hardcopy notice in faculty mailboxes just before 1st day of Fall classes by Sallie
- Sallie’s student will look over the syllabi for all undergrad cs courses turned into the CS office for projects due near 11/5-11/7 and request those instructors to reschedule due dates. Also request instructors with due dates just before 11/5 not to postpone their due dates.

Layne has requested this for CS1206 2 UNIX machines available at least until 5pm that students can log into remotely. (CS1206 students could go in 118 and use NT to telnet to the CS1206 UNIX servers.) Those 2 machines could be 2 moved from 116 to the GTA room, because 116 PCs are not used for the programming contest. Finally, if the grader is run on a FreeBSD machine this fall (rather than ei.cs.vt.edu), then that FreeBSD machine must stay up in the GTA room.

Assignments:
- Sallie -- receive commitment from IBM for use and installation of their software - done
- Sallie – contact Vickie and VBS regarding use of 110.