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X.500
Directory Service

John Yin

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NASA *Ames Research Center*
Moffett Field, CA 94035

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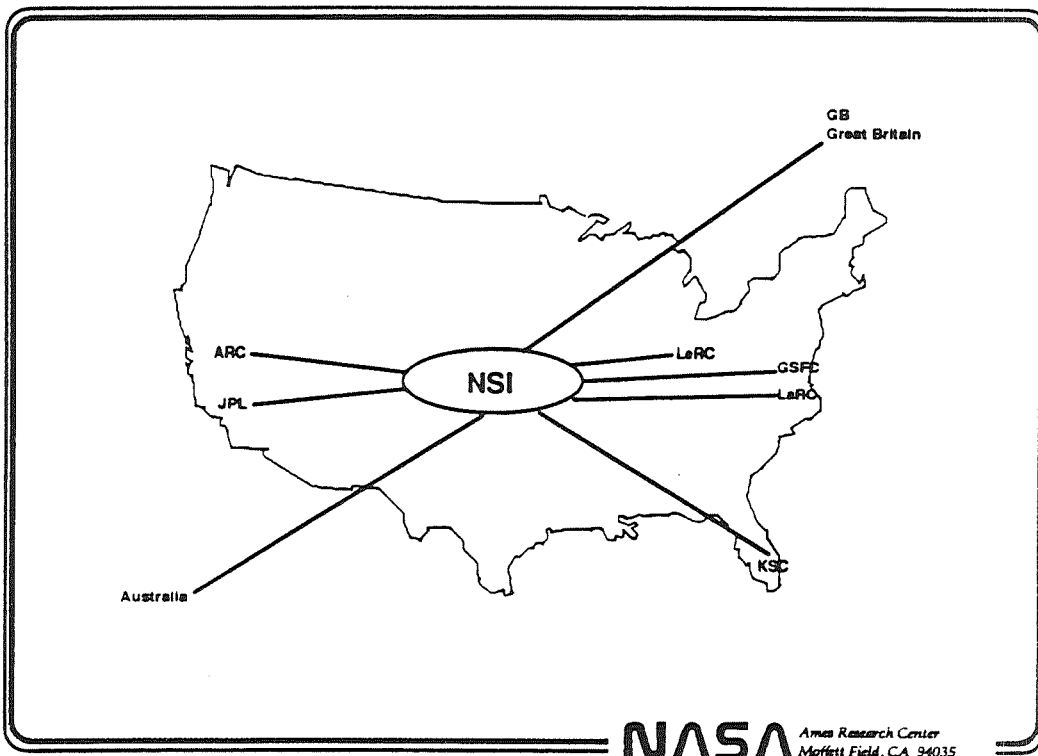

What is X.500?

- An international standard for a globally distributed directory.

- Provides basic addressing information.

- Provides detailed information on countries, organizations, people, and resources (e.g., where printers are).

- Present pilot project able to access information in 14 countries.

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User Agents → X.500 Server → NSI →

X.500 defines:

- The interaction between user agents and a server.

- The interaction between servers over a wide area network.

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GB
Great Britain

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LaRC
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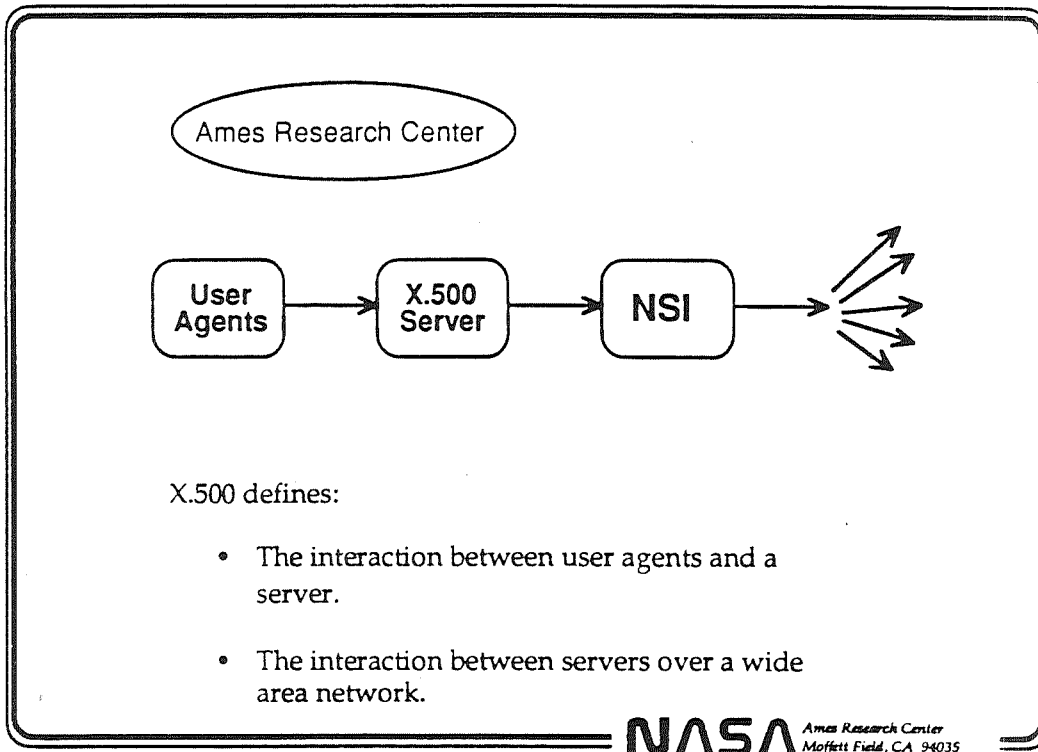
Advantages of X.500

- The first standardized inter-organization directory service.

- Fast becoming a world-wide standard. Pilot project in use in 14 countries.

- The only way to access extensive, distributed, global information. Other services presently available offer only limited information.

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User Agents / Interfaces Available

Pod	Uses the X-windows system. Simple point and click interface makes it user friendly. Accessible to novice users.
Sd (Screen Directory)	Screen oriented interface with the same functionality as Pod.
Dish	A powerful tool enabling advanced users to access extensive information and customize their queries.
Fred (FRont-End to Dish)	Uses a command line. Specializes in email and other addressing information. A user friendly front-end to dish.
Xwp (White Pages interface for X.500 System)	X-windows interface that supports user friendly naming.

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Immediate Goals

- Provide an operational X.500 backbone for NASA Science Network users.

- Integrate non-Unix based User Agents.
    Macintosh, PC, VAX/VMS, IBM Profs.

- Establish X.500 access points and provide access control lists where appropriate.

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Future Goals

- A GOSIP requirement.

- **Access more vital and detailed information.**
  X.500 users will be able to access information on application processes, entities, and devices.

- Integrate with non-Science Network X.500 directory servers.

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