

Silk News Letter

Issue 7

August 2003

1. Introduction

The Silk News Letter is a monthly electronic news bulletin with an update on current issues regarding the Virtual Silk Highway project. The news bulletin first becomes available in English and within a few weeks a Russian translation is distributed. Older versions of the Silk News Letter can be obtained from the Silk web site: www.silkproject.org

There was no July issue of the Silk News Letter due to the holiday season.

2. Status of Silk sites

Friday August 22 was an important mile stone in the history of the Silk project: Turkmenistan was connected to the Silk infrastructure as the last of the eight countries. This was nearly a year after the installation of the first dish in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Since the previous News Letter Kazakhstan was also connected.

Now that all the dishes are installed and operational technical fine tuning can take place so that the technical difficulties that have been encountered may be solved.

The status per country being connected is as follows:

Azerbaijan: a few days after the inauguration of the Silk connection (May 2003) the transmitter problem struck here as well. Since then the Silk dish has not been in operation.

Kazakhstan: the equipment was installed at the end of July.

Kyrgyz Republic: due to the transmit problem there is still only receive capacity. For the return channel AKNET makes use of the Moscow satellite connection that they also operate.

Tajikistan: operations are only possible after resetting the equipment at certain intervals.

Turkmenistan: as said the Turkmen dish was installed as last of the eight Silk countries.

The other sites (Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan) are not affected by the malfunctioning transmitter and take full advantage of the bandwidth that is being provided.

3. Silk statistics Q2

The Silk statistics over the second quarter of 2003 are attached as PDF file to this News Letter.

4. Technical workshop

Now that all the countries are connected followup can be given with respect to training. The first activity in this field is the technical Silk workshop that will be held in Tashkent from October 13 to October 17. The Uzbek NREN is hosting this NATO funded workshop. From every Silk country at least two NREN technicians will invited for training in the operations of the equipment that delivered as part of the Silk infrastructure. The organiser and contact person for the workshop is Prof. V. Navotny (Navotny@uzsci.net).

5. Regional connectivity

Another activity that will be taken with force during the next months is the extension of Silk to the regions. The NATO Networking Panel encourages the Silk countries to submit grant proposals for infrastructure that will connect universities and institutes outside of the capital cities to the Silk hub. The deadline for proposal submittal is September 15 and the Panel meeting that will decide on the proposals is scheduled for the beginning of November.

6. Support for Silk

The Silk project has caught the attention of the political leadership in the benefiting countries and is also followed with interest in Russia as indicated by a letter from the Deputy Minister of Education of the Russian Federation, who congratulated NATO on the occasion of the completion of the project. The Turkman President Sapamurat Niyazov himself welcomed the participation of his country in this project.

Silk project contact information:

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SILK DISH STATISTICS Q2 2003

TO: SILK TASK FORCE
FROM: DRS. R.F. JANZ
SUBJECT: SILK STATISTICS Q 2 2003
DATE: AUGUST 31, 2003
CC:

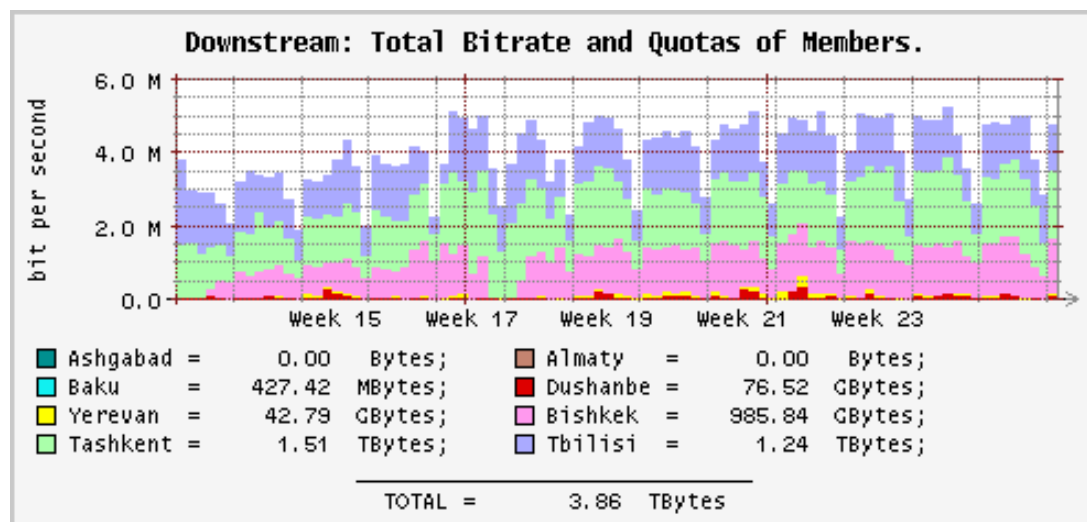
INTRODUCTION

The Silk infrastructure became operational in August 2002 when the first dish in Tashkent became active. Since then the other Silk countries are being connected. One of the activities of the Silk News Letter is provide regular overviews of the use of the Silk band width. This document provides a summary during the second quarter of 2003, following the first overview of Q1 of 2003.

The graphics have been provided by the software installed at the Hamburg site and maintained by Radio-MSU.

TOTAL BANDWIDTH

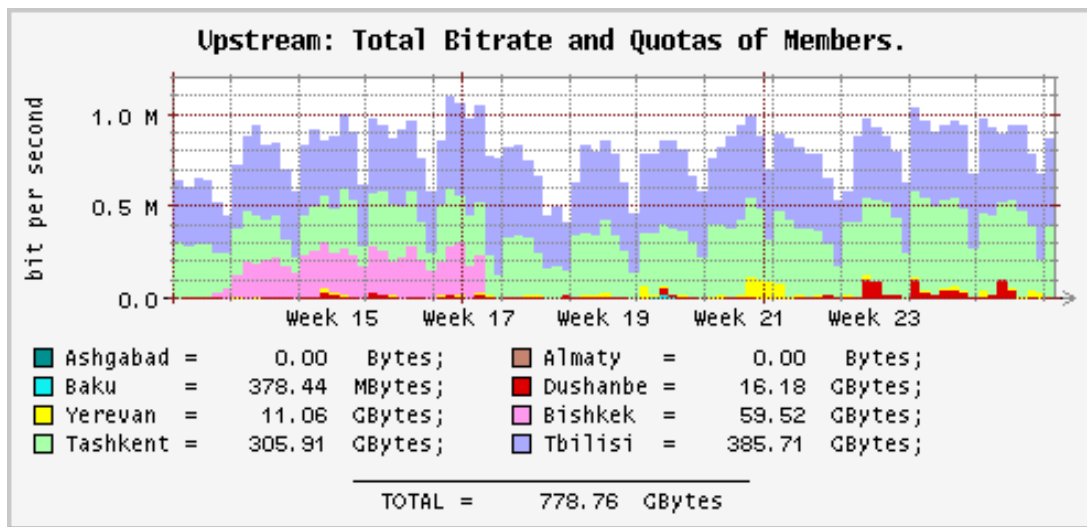
The Downstream traffic is the west-to east traffic volume:



Six of the eight sites were or became operational during this period: Ashgabat (Tm) and Almaty (Kz) were connected during the summer months. Baku (Az) is not visible on this overview because the link was only active for a short time after commence of operations and then was terminated because of technical problems. Yerevan (Am) shows very little connectivity due to restrictions of the allowed use. Dushanbe (Tj) also shows very little activity because of the technical difficulties and the absence of a real metropolitan infrastructure.

The total downstream traffic (3.86 Tbytes) is 75% more than what was measured during the Q1 of 2003.

The Upstream bit rate is the east to west traffic volume:



The same remarks apply here as to the Downstream bit rate. One addition concerns Bishkek (Kg) where the receive function of the equipment was out of order since week 18. Fortunately the Kyrgyz NREN has a second Internet connection through Moscow so that the return traffic could be rerouted.

The total up stream traffic is 31 % more than during Q1 of 2003