EARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Organization of technical work in EARN
Approved at the Board of Directors meeting June 1/2, 1989

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                         Organization of
                       Technical work in EARN
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INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND
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The technical body know as EARNTECH was originally formed as a closed
Group with a limited number of delegates per country as the technical
supplement to the Board of Directors in EARN.

In time EARNTECH, as measured by the number of people on the EARNTECH
lists, has grown to more than 160 people, essentially being a "forum"
to exchange technical network information, and to provide input for
monitoring the development of EARN services.

There no longer seems to be any reasons for EARNTECH to have a limited
number of members per country. Countries like Germany, France and
Italy with more that a hundred nodes naturally have more technical
people than a country like Luxembourg with only one node. Also,
technical questions within EARN are so wide a field that probably
nobody can have a reasonably deep understanding and interest in all of
them.

Therefore the EARNTECH will be declared an entirely open group, which could meet at EARN conventions and have a distribution list for very general and introductory questions for those involved with technical work in EARN, as we have the EARN-UG list for users. There are about 700 nodes so that the potential number of members in EARNTECH is maybe more than 700, since the Group would be completely open and some nodes could have more than one technically active person.

The purpose of the EARNTECH would be information exchange, and also initial discussions providing input for activities to be carried on. With this view the Board of Directors in its last meeting in Tel-Aviv decided that:

-   the EARN Executive Committee should prepare clear terms of reference for EARNTECH;

-   the EARN Executive Committee should do all that is necessary to improve communication with EARNTECH.

The Executive Committee has improved communication by restructuring distribution lists and by making the minutes and most working papers of the Executive Committee meetings public. After discussing the organization of the technical work in EARN at two meetings, the EARN Executive recommended that the technical work in EARN be structured as follows:

1.   EARN Permanent Groups

2.   EARN Project Groups

3.   EARN Special Interest Groups

4.   EARN Technical Forum

In appropriate circumstances a group may change its status or spawn other groups.

Although only EARN is mentioned in this document, it should be understood that we encourage close co-operation with people from BITNET, NETNORTH, COSINE, RARE, and EASINET and in some cases also other networks. It is to be understood that participation from these networks in the groups, especially of course in the Special Interest Groups, is very welcome.

ORGANIZATION OF TECHNICAL WORK IN EARN
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EARN PERMANENT GROUPS

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- Definition:
Groups in charge of the management and operation of the
network having a permanent functionality.

- Initiative to set up a Permanent Group:
EARN Board of Directors or EARN Executive Committee.

- Decision to set up a Permanent Group:
EARN Board of Directors.

- Participation:
Appointed by EARN Board of Directors.

- Chairing the Group:
An EARN Executive Committee Member or the EARN Manager.

- Reporting to:
EARN Executive Committee.

- Informing:
Project Groups.

- Existing permanent Groups:

EARN-NOG
The EARN-NOG is a formal Group, chaired by
the EARN   Manager, responsible for the
Operations of the current   EARN backbone
network. The members of the Group are
the EARN Network Country Co-ordinators (NCCs), appointed
by the EARN Directors and those having responsibility
for   the major EARN tools. The EARN-NOG
receives direction   from the EARN
Executive Committee and the EARN Board of
Directors and reports to the EARN Executive Committee.

EARN PROJECT GROUPS

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- Definition:
Project Groups are established to carry
out network   developments and projects,
have specific responsibilities   and goals,

and have limited lifetimes.

- Initiative to set up a Permanent Group:
  EARN Executive Committee.

- Decision to set up a Project Group:
  The EARN Executive Committee may decide
to establish a   Project Group to undertake
particular tasks for the   network if zero
or small financing is required. Otherwise,
the decision has to be taken by the EARN Board of
Directors.

- Participation:
  All members of Groups are appointed by
EARN Executive   Committee or EARN Board of
Directors. At least one member   of the EARN
Executive Committee or the EARN Manager will
be member of the Group for liaison purposes.

- Chairing the Group:
  The chairman of the Group will be
appointed by the EARN   Executive
Committee after consultation with the participants.

- Reporting to:
  EARN Executive Committee.

- Informing:
  EARN Executive Committee and Network
Operation Group.

- Existing Project Groups:

  EARN-X25
  The EARN-X25 Group is established from
staff at the   switch sites and those
working with the G-boxes and E-   boxes
and others who may contribute to the project.
The goal of the Group is to make the X.25 backbone
work according to the OSI migration plan.

  EARNSTAT
  The EARNSTAT Group is established with
staff from   international nodes and
others contributing to the   goal of
providing statistics of the EARN traffic,
primarily the international part, to provide a basis

for configuration and routing and maybe cost sharing.

EARN-SNA
The EARN-SNA Group was set up with the initial tasks related to the control the use of SNA on the EARN international backbone.

EARN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
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- Definition:
Many technical developments may be important for the evolution of EARN on a short or long term perspective and thus warrant the establishment of a technical Group of people interested in or expert in specific areas of networking. The work in such Groups which many arise spontaneously from the technical environment (Special Interest Groups) would typically be focused on areas where no EARN projects are (yet) established.

- Initiative to set up a Special Interest Group:
Anybody.

- Decision to set up a Special Interest Group:
Anybody.

- Participation:
Anybody, the participation of a Board of Directors member will be encouraged for liaison purposes.

- Chairing the Group:
The chairman is elected by the participants

- Reporting to:
EARN Executive Committee (optional). A periodical report is recommended. The Group asks a member to report to the EARN Executive Committee.

- Informing:
The Special Interest Groups keep the

Project Groups on   related topics and
the Network Operation Group informed of
their discussions.

           -   Existing Special Interest Groups

           1. X.400
               The X.400 Group was set up to study
the migration   process towards a full
standard X.400 services.

           2. NETSRV-L
               The NETSRV-L Group works in the area
of NETSERV   provided services.

           3. LSTSRV-L
               The LSTSRV-L Group works in the area
of LISTSERV   provided services.

           -   Examples of new Special Interest Groups

           1. OSI Migration (general)
           2. IBM Protocols
           3. DEC Protocols
           4. TCP/IP Protocols
           5. Electronic mail
           6. Servers/Services
           7. LANs
           8. High Speed Networking
           9. PC Connectivity
           10. Message Handling Systems
           11. File Transfer, Access and Management
           12. Information Services and Directory
           13. Network Operations and X.25
           14. Full screen services
           15. Medium and high speed Communication
           16. Management of Network Applications
           17. Network modelling

EARN TECHNICAL FORUM
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           -   Definition:
               Is the general interest Group including
all people active   or interested in
technical work located at EARN nodes.

               The forum gives continuity to the old

EARNTECH and   enlarges its
audience. Regularly, at least once a year, at
the EARN users conference, the forum will have an
opportunity to participate in a Technical Workshop to
exchange ideas on all technical matters of interest to
EARN. The EARNTECH list will be open to all those
wishing   to participate in general
discussions on technical   matters.