

EARN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EARN EXEC)

EARN EXEC-MEETING NR. 15
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Minutes of the Meeting Held March 8, 1988

PLACE: Paris, France

EARN REPRESENTATIVES: Alain Auroux, EARN Office, Paris
Paul Bryant, United Kingdom Marie Chr.
Clarisse, EARN Office, Paris Joe Chester,
EARN Office, Dublin Michael Hebgen,
Germany Jean-Claude Ippolito, France
Dennis Jennings, Ireland David Lord, CERN

EARN TECHNICAL GROUP REPORTER: Peter Sylvester, Germany

A. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last EARN EXEC meeting were approved and signed and will be distributed to the EARN BOD by Michael Hebgen. Joe Chester will send a signed copy to Alain Auroux for the book.

MATTERS ARISING: Dennis Jennings together with the EARN EXEC checked the EARN EXEC action list which will be updated and distributed by Joe Chester.

B. ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

Alain Auroux will coordinate the discussion on the network, take the comments into account and draft a new proposal to be voted on electronically.

2. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dennins Jennings informed the EARN EXEC that the contracts have been extended to February 1989.

3. NETWORK COUNTRY COORDINATORS (NCC)

Alain Auroux presented the proposal dated March 4, 1988. The EARN EXEC decided to formalize the NCC activities. Page 1 of the proposal was approved and will be distributed to the EARN BOD and to the NCCs by Alain Auroux. Page 2 will be re-drafted and send to the EARN EXEC for comments.

Alain Auroux and Joe Chester will prepare a LISTSERV distribution list and ask the NCCs how the list should be managed.

Alain Auroux was asked to prepare also a draft job description of the node administrators (NAD).

4. TECHNICAL STAFF

Paul Bryant presented the proposal for EARN Technical Staff (see appendix A) and Alain Auroux reported, that all votes received say "Yes, but subject to funds - should be included as an item in the budget proposal". The proposal will be circulated to the EARN BOD by Alain Auroux. Michael Hebgen requested discussions with DEC for funding which was agreed.

5. ADDITIONAL US LINE

David Lord explained the need for a second transatlantic link mainly due to backup reasons. The EARN EXEC accepted the first part of the proposal (Phase A), a 9.6 KB link CERN - GWUVM, as an emergency action with the following reservations, which will be included in future drafts for Phase B:

- * Michael Hebgen and Jean-Claude Ippolito requested 64 KB links between MOP - CERN - Bonn.
- * Jean-Claude Ippolito requested traffic statistics.
- * Paul Bryant requested, that the technical details for the use of
 - the 9.6 KB line should be studied
 - the 64 KB line should be studied with respect to location, routing, fall back procedures etc.

After some discussion on countries being invited to contribute to the costs and in addition to a message already send to the EARN BOD on March 3 by Dennis Jennings, David Lord will prepare a paper on how the additional US line is managed and Alain Auroux will split the costs for half year using EARN keys, which are based on the RARE keys.

6. COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP

After presentation of a UK related proposal by Paul Bryant and a discussion on similar situations in other countries Alain Auroux was asked to review the EARN charter and statutes for cooperate

membership of national networks and to draft a proposal for a change of the Charter.

7. BOD AGENDA

Dennis Jennings asked the EARN EXEC to consider the BoD agenda in the next time. Up to March 26 papers are expected from persons mentioned in the agenda. Late supplemental papers should be avoided, but - if necessary - 40 copies should be given to Joe Chester before the meeting.

Joe Chester was asked to send mail to the EARN BoD regarding rules for adding items to the agenda (always to the end).

8. SNA

Paul Bryant explained his proposal which was not accepted as it specified the control of the use of SNA on the international EARN lines.

The EARN EXEC agreed that substantial changes to the existing international EARN network technology should be approved by the EARN BOD/EXEC and asked Paul Bryant to submit a formal proposal.

Michael Hebgen together with other members of the EARN EXEC was asked to draft a policy proposal for the use of SNA on international EARN lines.

9. NEXT EXEC MEETING

The next EARN EXEC meeting will take place on Sunday, April 17, 8.30 am, in Izmir.

Each EARN EXEC member should nominate a deputy and the deputy should participate in EARN EXEC meetings if the EXEC member cannot manage to attend.

C. REPORTS

10. LISBON REPORT

Dennis Jennings mentioned the decision of the EARN EXEC to invite the reporter of the EARN Technical Meeting and he requested agreed minutes for future EARN Technical Meetings.

Peter Sylvester referred to the Minutes contained in the briefing papers for the last EARN EXEC meeting and he concentrated on the

following key points:

- * Communication problems between technical people and the EARN BOD/EXEC - there had been a lot of technical decisions and recommendations which had had no substantial effect within EARN.
- * How actions are treated and presented to the EARN EXEC/BOD does not reflect the technical discussions - e.g. the results of the Perugia meeting have not been forwarded to the EARN EXEC in the right way. There was insufficient feedback from the EARN EXEC on material from the EARN Technical Group and also little information on why the Executive took certain decisions.
- * The request from the EARN Technical Group for funding of technical activities is a combined request
 - 2 permanent staff and
 - project oriented task forces in the range of 2 staff people

Following this presentation the EARN EXEC and Peter Sylvester tried to formulate ideas to solve the problems:

- * The actual organisation of the EARN Technical Group is not appropriate to solve technical problems.
- * The Technical Meetings should continue in the way they are including pure education or participants are requested to provide more technical input.
- * To motivate technical activities the EARN EXEC/BOD should welcome and comment on the output of the Technical Group.
- * A definition of the minimal technical requirements including manpower is required for any institution/group/country for their participation in EARN especially for international and backbone nodes - see also NCC description.

Dennis Jennings will send an invitation to EARNTECH to participate in the (re)construction of the EARN Technical Group and Joe Chester will draft a paper on the (re)organisation. Peter Sylvester should report on the discussion with the EARN EXEC to the EARN Technical Group.

11. FINANCE

Alain Auroux and Jean-Claude Ippolito presented the revised budget for 1988 and the budget proposal for 1989 - 1992. With the incorporation of some explanation and a request for comments before the next BOD meeting by Dennis Jennings the following documents will be sent out to the EARN BOD by Alain Auroux:

- the revised budget and budget projection,
- the auditor report on 1987,
- the expense report on 1987,
- a description of the legal responsibilities of the EARN Directors,
- an illustration of the countries contribution for the second

transatlantic link based on 2 funding models
the 88 funding model and
a new funding model where the whole international EARN
infrastructure is divided by EARN keys (based on RARE
keys),

- * a report on the progress of TAL contributions,
- * a report on the payment of international lines and
- * a report on topology changes

12. CERN CONNECTIONS

David Lord is asked to draft a proposal to get 64 KB connections between Montpellier - CERN - Bonn.

13. OSI TRANSITION PROGRAMME

Dennis Jennings and Joe Chester reported on the OSI Technical Group Meeting in Geneva where a small task force is working on the technical details for an OSI transition plan under the following guidelines:

- * guarantee continuity of service
- * guarantee connectivity of IBM and DEC machines
- * enhance network services

Today two approaches are investigated by the OSI Technical Group:

- * NJE/SNA/X.25 and
- * NJE/OSI/X.25.

EARN is inviting IBM to participate in the EARN/DEC migration activities. More information and clearer statements on the OSI activities are requested by the EARN EXEC and Joe Chester was asked to circulate the Minutes of the OSI Programme Committee to the EARN BOD.

14. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Alain Auroux will reorganise the working groups on traffic (to be chaired by Dominique Dumas) and on modelling (to be chaired by Kara Tomara).

Michael Hebgen
March 14, 1988

Appendix A

TECHNICAL STAFF PROPOSAL

The Technical Group propose that two permanent staff should be provide to manage the network. The Group do not believe that volunteer staff should be expected to provide the service. Volunteer staff cannot dedicate their time to the tasks and it is unreasonable to expect their sites to provide the effort free of charge. It is here proposed that the Executive agree to the provision and include finance in the budget and forward looks.

The tasks to be carried out by the staff are:-

- * Node management including the master co-ordination for EARN. Requires one week per month.
- * The control of NETSERV and LISTSERV. Requires one week per month.
- * Maintenance of existing programs. Requires one week per month.
- * Liaison with sites and others. Requires one week per month.
- * Support for National Country Co-ordinators. Requires a few days per month.
- * Writing and updating documents. Requires a few days per month.
- * Overheads including holidays, education, and meetings. Requires one week per month.

The attributes for the posts are:-

- * Applicants must be familiar with the EARN network or be willing to learn quickly.
- * Some programming experience in high level languages is required.