

EARN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EARN EXEC)

EARN EXEC-MEETING NR. 19

Minutes of the Meeting Held July 28, 1988

PLACE: Paris, France

EARN REPRESENTATIVES: Alain Auroux, EARN Office, Paris
Paul Bryant, United Kingdom Joe
Chester, EARN Office, Dublin Frode
Greisen, Denmark Jean-Claude
Ippolito, France Dennis Jennings,
Ireland David Lord, CERN Olivier
Martin, CERN

Apologies: Michael Hebgen, Stefano Trumpy

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

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

MATTERS ARISING/ACTION LIST: It was agreed to add an item on "Review of Management and Organisational Structure" to the agenda of the next meeting. An input paper will be prepared by Paul Bryant and Joe Chester.

6. LIAISON.

EUNET: Joe Chester reported on two meetings with EUNET. It was agreed that formal discussions should continue on a Memorandum of Understanding, and on gateways and other topics of interest. Frode Greisen agreed to formally represent the Executive Committee, assisted by Joe Chester, in these discussions.

JWPA: Dennis Jennings reviewed the history of JWPA, and there was a discussion on the outcome of the recent meetings. It was agreed to review the report circulated as the agreed position

(Appendix A), with a view to its formal acceptance by EARN. Comments are to be sent to the Exec list as soon as possible.

It was agreed that further participation by EARN in JWPA would be on the basis that JWPA operated correctly, and that all documents issued on behalf of JWPA be specifically agreed by the members before circulation.

ACTION: Dennis Jennings will prepare a Statement of EARN's current position for circulation.

Paul Bryant will prepare a paper on the European Internetwork Model for consideration at the next meeting.

Concern was expressed that the representation of the MDNS pilot activities as the "COSINE Network" may make EARN's funding arrangements for 1989 more difficult.

7. TECHNICAL ITEMS

Olivier Martin reported on the EARN Tech meeting in Izmir.

ACTIONS:

- * Alain Auroux will prepare a catalogue of EARN documents.
- * Alain Auroux will prepare a proposal for the rationalising of the existing lists (EARNTECH,, NOG, etc.)
- * Alain Auroux will summarise electronically the situation re directives.

Mailer: Paul Bryant stated that the existing mailer was not RFC822 conformant and that Eric Thomas proposed that the Exec make funds available for the mailer to be rewritten.

It was agreed that this would be given a high priority in 1989, when budgeted funds will become available. In the interim, Eric Thomas would be asked to investigate the work in Princeton. The agreed mailer recommendation was circulated to NAD's. Alain Auroux will report responses to the Exec.

Manpower: Alain Auroux presented a summary of the existing proposal (Appendix B)

ACTION: Alain Auroux will write a letter of enquiry to the Board on the implementation of the manpower proposal.

Statistics/Modelling: The Exec warmly welcomed the offer by Jean-Claude Ippolito to process the traffic statistics.

ACTION: D. Dumas will produce a monthly traffic statistics report for the Exec beginning in September, including FRMOP22.

ACTION: Alain Auroux will investigate the EMBL list, and report to the September meeting.

18. FINANCE

Expenditure: Alain Auroux reported that the Paris Office was within budget except that travel was 30% over budget. The Dublin Office expenditure was circulated, showing that travel expenditure was the major expenditure item.

ACTION: Alain Auroux and Joe Chester will produce a full list of all trips undertaken for the next Executive meeting.

ACTION: Jean-Claude Ippolito and Alain Auroux will prepare a full Statement of Expenditure.

ACTION: Jean-Claude Ippolito and Alain Auroux will send a budget and financial report for the first half of 1988 to the Board before the October meeting, as decided at the Board Meeting of 19-20 November 1987.

As expenditure is ahead of budget, Dennis Jennings said that cut-backs appeared to be necessary.

TAL Payments: Alain Auroux reported that 30% of this money is still unpaid (6 countries).

ACTIONS:

- * Alain Auroux will immediately inform defaulting countries that traffic will not be passed after 30 September if the payment is not made.
- * Jean-Claude Ippolito will check how this can be achieved technically.

1989 funding: ACTION: Alain Auroux is to write asking Board members to confirm that funding, according to the model, is secured for 1989.

1990 funding will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

ACTION: Dennis Jennings/David Lord are to prepare a funding model for the next Exec meeting.

8. OSI PROGRAMME

Joe Chester reported on meetings with DEC, NT, sites, and Dennis Jennings reported a telephone conversation with IBM (Herb Budd). Alain Auroux reported on the switch interoperability meeting.

ACTIONS:

- * Joe Chester is to have discussions with Montpellier, CWI, and Nordunet.

- * Dennis Jennings/Joe Chester will discuss gateway X.25 support with NT management.

The draft agenda for the suppliers meeting was agreed. The suppliers representatives have informally agreed to participate.

ACTIONS:

- * Dennis Jennings will forward the agenda to the suppliers.
- * Dennis Jennings will investigate the use of statistical multiplexers on Montpellier-CERN link with IBM.
- * Paul Bryant will produce a specification for a network level gateway.

Nordunet. Frode Greisen reported on the Nordunet proposals for a wide-area LAN. DEC have agreed to provide four G-boxes and funding to upgrade the link to the EARN backbone.

9. MEMBERSHIP

Frode Greisen reported that the Tunisia and Egypt votes were now completed. Both countries are now members. Voting on Morocco is now proceeding. India was voted on and accepted as an Associate Member.

There was a discussion on Eastern Bloc countries.

ACTIONS:

- * Dennis Jennings to write to Hungary, informing them that the Board of Directors has agreed their application, subject to the US Dept. of Commerce approval.
- * Dennis Jennings to write to the US Dept. of Commerce.
- * Frode Greisen to initiate a vote on USSR, Bulgaria.
- * Joe Chester to send a copy of the Code of Conduct to Frode Greisen.

10. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Frode Greisen reported that there are six new Israeli Associate Members.

ACTION: Frode Greisen will present a proposal from the Membership Committee on publishers.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ACTIONS:

- * Dennis Jennings to advise the Board that there will be an election.
- * Dennis Jennings to initiate an electronic discussion on the

role and responsibilities of Exec members. * Michael Hebgen to present a proposal on election procedures.

17. EARN89

Alain Auroux reported on progress with EARN89. Actions:

- * Alain Auroux to invite Stelios Orphanoudakis to the September Exec meeting.
- * Alain Auroux to summarise discussions on the EARN89 lists to the Exec list each month.

19. NEXT MEETING

The next Exec meeting will take place in Paris on 19 August. The September meeting will take place on 27 September, also in Paris.

Appendix A

JWPA REPORT.

Joint Working Party A of Cosine, EARN, EUNET and RARE met on 11 July 1988 at Schipol Airport to consider the development of a shared common X.25 infrastructure for research in Europe. In the discussions, all participants recognised

- * That the existing research network service providers (EARN, EUNET, HEPNET) have for many years been providing the necessary networking services for research; that they are all planning or in the process of making the transition towards the adoption of ISO/OSI protocols; that they have a desire to cooperate together to serve better their users; and that they share as a common goal the development of a common shared networking infrastructure for research in Europe.
- * The importance of the work being done by RARE in specifying the ISO/OSI environment for national and international research networking in the future, and the technological solutions required for the transition to ISO/OSI.
- * That the COSINE Programme has as its goal the establishment of a common shared networking infrastructure for research in Europe, and that the COSINE approach is to prefer that the European PTTs be the providers of the networking infrastructure at the X.25 sub-network level.

In the discussions, JWPA warmly welcomed the recent developments in networking in Europe. Specifically, JWPA welcomes the increasing cooperation between the existing research networking service providers EARN, EUNET and HEPNET; the offer by the CEC to provide 1MECU in 1988 to support research networking, and to offer further substantial sums of money in 1989-1991; the offer of finan-

cial support by the Government of Norway which was made at the recent COSINE Policy Group meeting. In particular JWPA welcomes the offer by the Dutch PTT to initiate a pilot pre-CEPT Managed Data Network Service (MDNS) for research networking in Europe.

Given the above, JWPA decided and recommends as follows:

- 1) JWPA recommends that a common shared X.25 infrastructure for research in Europe be established in Europe, and warmly welcomes the commitment of the existing network service providers EARN, EUNET and HEPNET to participate in achieving this goal. JWPA recommends that an evolutionary approach be adopted towards the establishment of this common shared X.25 infrastructure.
- 2) JWPA notes and welcomes the decision of the research network service providers EARN, EUNET and HEPNET to continue with their ISO/OSI transition plans, and warmly welcomes their decision to cooperate together to enhance their international X.25 infrastructures, to share the use of these enhancements, and to ensure interoperability between their networks. JWPA recommends that COSINE and CEC funding be provided to JWPA ensure that these enhancements are achieved as rapidly as possible, and that interoperability is achieved. JWPA notes the willingness of these research network service providers to order the additional lines in anticipation of the provision of funding by COSINE and the CEC so that rapid progress can be made.
- 3) JWPA notes and welcomes the willingness of all JWPA participants to participate in a CEPT-MDNS pilot project, as proposed by the Dutch PTT, and to work to ensure interoperability between this pilot network and the research network service providers existing and planned X.25 network infrastructures. JWPA recommends that COSINE and CEC funding be provided to JWPA to fund the pilot MDNS project and the interworking activities, so that this work can proceed in parallel with the network enhancements described in 2 above.
- 4) JWPA notes and welcomes the desire of all network service providers to ensure interoperability with the public X.25 networks (PPSDNs) to provide universal connectivity. JWPA recommends that the connections to the PPSDN be provided by the Pilot MDNS Project, and that COSINE and CEC funding be provided to achieve this, and to ensure interoperability with the research network service providers existing and planned X.25 infrastructures.
- 5) JWPA notes and welcomes the commitment of all the research network service providers EARN, EUNET and HEPNET to participate in the evaluation of the Pilot MDNS Project and to cooperate with the enhancement of the MDNS solution if this evaluation is satisfactory and meets their networking service requirements. JWPA recommends that COSINE and CEC funding be provided to JWPA to support this evaluation.

Appendix B

TECHNICAL STAFF PROPOSAL

The Technical Group propose that two permanent staff should be provided 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.

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.

Two full-time staff are needed to carry out these tasks.

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.

In addition, funding should be provided for work for two people on projects/task forces.

These people should be familiar with the network, and have substantial network experience.

Possible task forces - subgroups:

- * Mailer
- * Gateways
- * User interfaces
- * Domain names
- * Modelling and Statistics