

EARN EXECUTIVE

Revised EARN Charter - for approval

issued by
A Cohen
February 3, 1989

What follows is the latest EARN Charter prepared by Hank Nussbacher and me. It includes changes proposed by Frode, Michael H. and Alain. Not all proposed changes were included.

Points that need to be clarified:

2.0.3: We have a situation where EARN is very strict with associate members. Every associate institute that wishes to be a member of EARN has to be voted in by EARN. If a company wishes to connect to Janet in order to talk to people in EARN, we have no control and no powers of decision power. Whereas if that company is located in France, they can request to be part of the national research network and access EARN via a gateway or they can request to be a node in EARN. The differences in use are moot. The sole difference is if the node appears in the RSCS route tables that are distributed.

We need to accept the reality that there are many national research networks available throughout Europe, connecting many sites and companies that we have absolutely no control over. The associate membership rules only add an extra level of paperwork, and quite often countries don't even bother to register nodes as associate members.

Therefore, read over 2.0.3 with all that mind.

3.0.2: Once again associate members. As we have seen by the Bitnet/Csnet merger, our definition and their definition of a 'FULL' member are not in sync. Even if we are able to find which categories of Onenet (their new name) correspond to our full institute members, what do we do with sites in Arpanet? Or sites in Janet? Or sites in DFN? Each network has their own rules and requirements and it will be impossible to find the exact set of sites that we would allow our associate members to communicate with. I have left the wording in paragraph 3 vague, but we need to rethink our entire set of rules for associate members.

Lastly, Bitnet has relaxed its rules for associate membership and we need to evaluate our procedures against the reality existing in our network today. Bitnet will allow for-profits to communicate one with the other.

4.0.3: We all know that co-operating country members will not be paying the same amount as full earn member countries. The question then is, on what do we charge them? Here there are 3 variables:

- central office costs: this covers route table generation and all that goes into supporting a new country. Clearly, since co-operating countries do not have a vote they should not be required to pay the full amount as voting EARN countries. But to give away the services for free is inviting trouble. Currently, EARN spans most of Europe. The areas for future expansion are Africa and the Middle East. Many of these smaller countries may want to connect but the costs may be too high. So they may opt for co-operating country status, allowing them an observer at BOD meetings. But the costs of helping these new countries to connect will require lots of help and assistance on our part. These costs will be shouldered by the EARN office. Therefore it is my recommendation that co-operating countries pay 50% of the computed EARN office expense (based on GNP or EARN keys).

- inter-continental links: This is the main reason for their wanting to connect to us. Therefore they should pay based on their full GNP.

- backbone costs: here we move into a complex issue. Take a break here and read the supplementary 'EARN Cost Sharing Proposal' (EXEC/10/89) - then come back. The reason for not charging co-operating countries in the costs of the EARN backbone are simple: the EARN backbone is designed to reduce costs and improve response time in EARN - specifically the European section. A country like India should not be expected to pay for the infrastructure improvement we are performing in our network.

EARN Charter - DRAFT
January 1989

1.0 EARN OBJECTIVES

EARN (European Academic and Research Network) is a computer network open to all universities, educational, academic and non-commercial research institutions.

The objective of EARN is to provide an information exchange system to satisfy the need for international academic cooperation and the fast, unrestricted exchange of data between

the members of this academic and research community, for non-commercial academic, scientific, educational and research purposes.

2.0 EARN MEMBERSHIP

EARN members are institutions in Europe, the Middle East or Africa. In addition, EARN members are institutions responsible for at least one node of EARN, who are able and willing to support communications with other EARN members. A node is a computer system, connected to the main EARN network directly or via a National Research Network with an agreed EARN Gateway, which is able to send, receive and distribute files, messages, mail and jobs, using appropriate communication standards and protocols as specified by EARN.

2.0.1 Country Eligibility

Any country in Europe, the Middle East or Africa is eligible to connect to EARN as a COUNTRY member and to nominate one director to the EARN Board of Directors.

COUNTRY members of EARN are considered to have the same status within EARN, independent of the size or implementation of their national network.

Any country not located within the region of Europe, the Middle East or Africa is eligible to connect as a COOPERATING COUNTRY and to nominate an observer to the EARN Board of Directors.

Requests for EARN membership from the first institution or the national research network for COUNTRY or COOPERATING COUNTRY members should be directed to the Office of the President of EARN.

Admission of all new EARN members requires a decision by the EARN Board of Directors.

2.0.2 Institute Eligibility

All universities and non-commercial research institutions within COUNTRY members of EARN are eligible to be FULL INSTITUTE members of the EARN Association. Requests for FULL INSTITUTE membership are handled and decided upon by the EARN Director in the respective country.

Other research institutions, or organisations with significant links to academic institutions, are eligible to become ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members. Associate membership status can be obtained for both COUNTRY members as well as for COOPERATING COUNTRY members.

2.0.3 Application

The member of the EARN Board of Directors in each country decides on applications for FULL INSTITUTE or ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE membership according to the regulations established by the Board. Acceptance of ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE membership must be reported to the EARN Board of Directors.

For a period of 60 days, any EARN Director can appeal the acceptance of an ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE member. In the case of an appeal, the EARN Board of Directors will vote on whether to permit acceptance or not.

2.0.4 Disconnection

Any COUNTRY or COOPERATING COUNTRY may request disconnection from EARN, provided a six month warning is supplied.

The EARN Board of Directors may request the disconnection of any FULL or COOPERATING COUNTRY from EARN, provided a six month warning is supplied.

3.0 EARN USAGE

All use of EARN must be for academic, scientific, educational or research purposes only. No commercial use or political activism, whether direct or indirect, is permitted.

All staff and students registered as users of an EARN node may be permitted to access EARN provided that their use is consistent with the Charter and the Code of Conduct of the EARN Association.

3.0.1 Communication with other Computer Networks

The members of the EARN Association agree to restrict their communications to other networks via agreed upon gateways and according to the regulations agreed upon between the Association and these networks.

3.0.2. Responsibilities

All FULL INSTITUTE and ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users of their computing facilities abide by these rules and any other regulations governing the use of EARN as the EARN Board of Directors shall introduce.

- All COUNTRY members shall install at least one permanent (leased line) telecommunications link, for which they are responsible, to a node on the main network of another EARN COUNTRY member.

- All ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members are only permitted to com-

municate with FULL INSTITUTE members of EARN and other accessible networks.

- All COUNTRY members shall allow at least one other COUNTRY member of EARN to install a link to one of their FULL INSTITUTE nodes.

- All COUNTRY members shall allow traffic destined for the nodes of other countries to transit their node(s), without charge and without restrictions other than those that may be necessary due to exceptional traffic conditions. All country members are expected to comply with the rules and regulations laid out in the "EARN Directives and Regulations".

3.0.3 Caveats

EARN does not guarantee the security, the confidentiality or the integrity of the data and messages sent on the EARN network. It is the user's responsibility to protect their computer systems and to secure data transmissions on the network that concern them by all means they feel appropriate. No EARN COUNTRY member (both FULL and COOPERATING) nor any FULL or ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE member shall be held responsible for unintentional damage that his use of the network may cause to other members.

4.0 EARN REGULATIONS

Regulations governing the connection to, access to and the use of EARN and EARN Services are determined by the EARN Board of Directors.

A decision of the EARN Board concerning the membership of EARN, the regulations governing EARN and any other matter concerning EARN shall be complied with by all members.

4.0.1. EARN Board of Directors

The EARN Board of Directors shall comprise one Director from each COUNTRY member, along with one observer from each COOPERATING COUNTRY member.

The EARN Board of Directors may coopt additional members to the Board as appropriate.

The members in each EARN country shall determine by themselves the method of choosing their EARN Director.

The EARN Board of Directors work and decides according to the Statutes and the Operating Procedures of EARN.

4.0.2. Voting

Each COUNTRY member is entitled to one vote on all EARN decisions. COOPERATING COUNTRY members are not entitled to a vote. The rules for voting are covered in the Operational Procedures of EARN.

4.0.3. Costs

Every COUNTRY and COOPERATING COUNTRY member will be required to pay annual dues to cover the costs of EARN. Each country's share of the costs will be based on decisions by the Board of Directors of EARN.

5.0 EARN RELATED DOCUMENTS

EARN Statutes

EARN Code of Conduct

EARN Operational Procedures

EARN Directives and Recommendations