

EARN Document

Title: Report of meeting between EARN and IXI
Author: P Bryant
Date: 1989/9/14
Committee: Executive
Document: EXEC128 89 EARN-MIN LISTSERV@UKACRL
Revision number: 0
Supersedes:
Status: Information
Maintainer: P Bryant
Access: Unrestricted

1 Present

J Striplin, N O'Reilly, P Bryant (EARN)
V Reijs, J Devoil, M Pallares (IXI)

2 Purpose

To explore interconnections between EARN and IXI and projects.

3 IXI to NT connections

IXI will only provide X.75 connections to PTO networks. This may possibly extend to networks with registered DNICS. Thus any IXI to NT connections will use gateway X.25.

Examination of NT 241-1001-317 "X.25 Gateway" and "IXI Annex 2 Technical Specification" suggest that a gateway X.25 connection would be easy to provide. As each EARN DTE which could be accessed via IXI or have access to IXI would have to be registered in some way in tables in the IXI switches this would impose a maintenance task on EARN. There may be some difficulties with the use of EARN or IXI as a transit network due to the requirement for all DTE to have an IXI address.

In the light of the unclear timescales for EARN gateway X.25 and the provision of IXI connection, planning for the gateway could be complete by January 1,1990 for implementation by March 1,1990.

It was recommended that the first IXI to NT connection should be in Amsterdam. Second and subsequent connections, if required, could be in CERN or Rutherford.

IXI will provide the connection(s) up to the data connection to the

NT switch.

It was unclear how multiple connections between IXI and EARN would operate. Could load sharing between the networks take place?

4 G-Box connections

G-Boxes could be connected to networks attached to IXI. IXI, seeing itself as a transit network, would not normally expect equipment to be directly connected to it. IXI to national network connections are planned as well as G-Box to national networks thus possibly no new connections are needed to test these routes.

It is recommended that the Irish G-Box should be tested via HEANET, IXI, EARN to an EARN G-Box plus a similar test in the UK.

The difficulties of re-configuring the network to operate live traffic over these routes is recognised and thus before any service use of EARN an appraisal of these tests is needed.

5 E-Box connections

Less is known about the E-Boxes but a similar test to the G-Box one is recommended with possible participants being Heidelberg, Bonn, CERN, and Rutherford.

6 Manpower

It appears that COSINE funds are available for travel but not for manpower.

EARN noted that they have a serious manpower shortages and that the development of their own network has highest priority. Thus any new commitments would depend on new volunteers. EARN staff could be used when they become free from the current project this is unlikely in the foreseeable future.

7 Current work

N O'Reilly, V Reijs, and P Bryant will further examine the provision of an X.25 gateway between IXI and EARN with a view to a conclusion by January 1990. A further decision would then need to be taken to implement the scheme by March 1, 1990.

8 Management

No further meetings are currently thought necessary.

Electronic liaison and liaison at various other meetings, such as WG4, will be maintained.