

EARN Document

Title: Proposal from Finland for the use of their G-Box
Author(s): Matti Ihamuotila, Markus Sadeniemi
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Maintainer: M Ihamuotila, M Sadeniemi
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Here is a request from Finland to test their G-box as a gateway for other networks. The Executive is invited to resolve.

To:

Frode Greisen
EARN President Office
c/o UNI-C
Vermunsgade 5
DK 2100 Copenhagen
DENMARK

Dear Frode

Finnish University and Research Network, FUNET, proposes to test the EARN G-BOX for mail gateway purposes between EARN and other networks. FUNET has already gained lots of experience in VMS and PMDF based gateways from other systems and would now investigate the possibilities of using the G-BOX as mail gateway like it was envisioned in the EARN OSI-TEAM report. The Finnish G-BOX already serves very well as the Finnish national node having over a dozen links.

In particular FUNET would like to start by installing the PMDF mailer package and some suitable TCP/IP package like CMU TCP/IP, for which FUNET has a site license, or a Multinet which would need to be purchased. Future alternatives to PMDF like Joiners coming JMAIL would also interest us. As soon as EARN or FUNET finds a suitable RFC987 gateway software for VMS, FUNET would like to evaluate it's suitability to EARN and FUNET needs.

The first phase would consist of setting up a production quality INTERBIT gateway between EARN and the TCP/IP Internet. Since the Nordic G-BOXes are also part of a large Nordic DECNET with connection to SPAN and HEPNET a gateway to VMS-11 mail is also implicitly available after installing PMDF. Gateways for filetransfer are also of interest to FUNET and we'd like to test several of our ideas to see if they fit in the G-BOX. Since the underlying networking software is well known in real use by FUNET experts we expect no major problems for the production traffic going through the G-BOX during the tests.

EARN would benefit from this work by getting experience on the performance and usefulness of the various gateway possibilities that the G-BOXes could offer to the EARN community. FUNET might be able to help installing these gateways on other G-BOXes as well if so desired.

We'd also like to have and test the JNET NJE/TCP driver Joiner is developing as a method to connect IBM VM/SP hosts which have TCP/IP but not SNA or fast BSC lines to the G-BOX. We see the co-existence of both OSI and TCP/IP based open NJE networks as a future reality and the G-BOXes could be used as gateways between all different NJE transport protocols. We think that the G-BOXes could be very good Gateway-BOXes.

The disk space needed for PMDF is about 30Mbytes and for CMU TCP/IP about 2Mbytes which is a small fraction of the total 1.2Gb G-BOX disk capacity. There should be enough CPU capacity for quite heavy traffic. The G-BOX 32Mb memory should be more than enough for a JNET with many links and the gateway. Of course all must finally be tested in production environment.

We expect that these tests are an important part of EARN OSI migration work and we hope that EARN executive will accept this work to be started on FUNET's G-box in the near future.

Regards

Matti Ihamuotila
Finnish EARN director

Markus Sadeniemi
Director of FUNET