

EARN EXECUTIVE

Technical work in EARN
organisation proposal - Draft 1

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PREFACE

The technical group we call EARNTECH was originally formed as a closed group with a limited number of delegates per country as the technical supplement to the Board of Directors in EARN.

In time EARNTECH, as measured by the number of people on the EARNTECH lists, has grown to more than 160 people, essentially being a "forum" to exchange technical network information, and to provide input for monitoring the development of EARN services. There seems to be the need for a formal structure in to EARN technical activities.

THE EXISTING GROUPS

EARN-BOD

The EARN-BOD group is the EARN Board of Directors, comprised of a director from each member country, and responsible for the overall running of the network.

EARNEEXEC

The EARNEEXEC is the EARN Executive, elected by the EARN-BOD from among their members, which is responsible for the day to day management of the EARN network.

EARN Technical/Management Staff

They are the permanent staff responding to EARNEEXEC charged of the management and international operation of the network.

EARNTECH

EARNTECH is the general open discussion group for anybody interested in EARN technical activities. The way to communicate is via EARNTECH list; many people are only on the list to listen, and the EARNTECH discussion is also propagated to other distribution lists.

EARN-NOG

The EARN-NOG is a formal group, chaired by the EARN Operations Manager, responsible for the Operations of the current EARN backbone

network. The members of the group are the EARN NCCs, appointed by the EARN Directors. The EARN-NOG receives direction from the EARNEXEC and the EARN-BOD and reports to the EARNEXEC

EARN-X25

The EARN-X25 group is established from people at the switch sites and those working with the G-boxes and E-boxes and others who may contribute to the project. The goal of the group is to get the X.25 back-bone working according to the OSI migration plan.

EARNSTAT

The EARNSTAT group is established with people from international nodes and others contributing to the goal of providing statistic of the EARN traffic, primarily the international part, to provide a basis for configuration and routing and maybe cost sharing.

EARN-SNA

The EARN-SNA group was set up with the initial tasks related to control the use of SNA on the EARN international backbone.

X.400

The X.400 group was set up to study the migration process towards full standard X.400 services.

OSI-TEAM

The OSI-TEAM group was set up to plan and monitor the EARN OSI migration.

NETSRV-L

The NETSRV-L group works in the area of Netserv provide services.

LSTSRV-L

The LSTSRV-L group works in the area of Listserv provide services.

THE EARN TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISATION

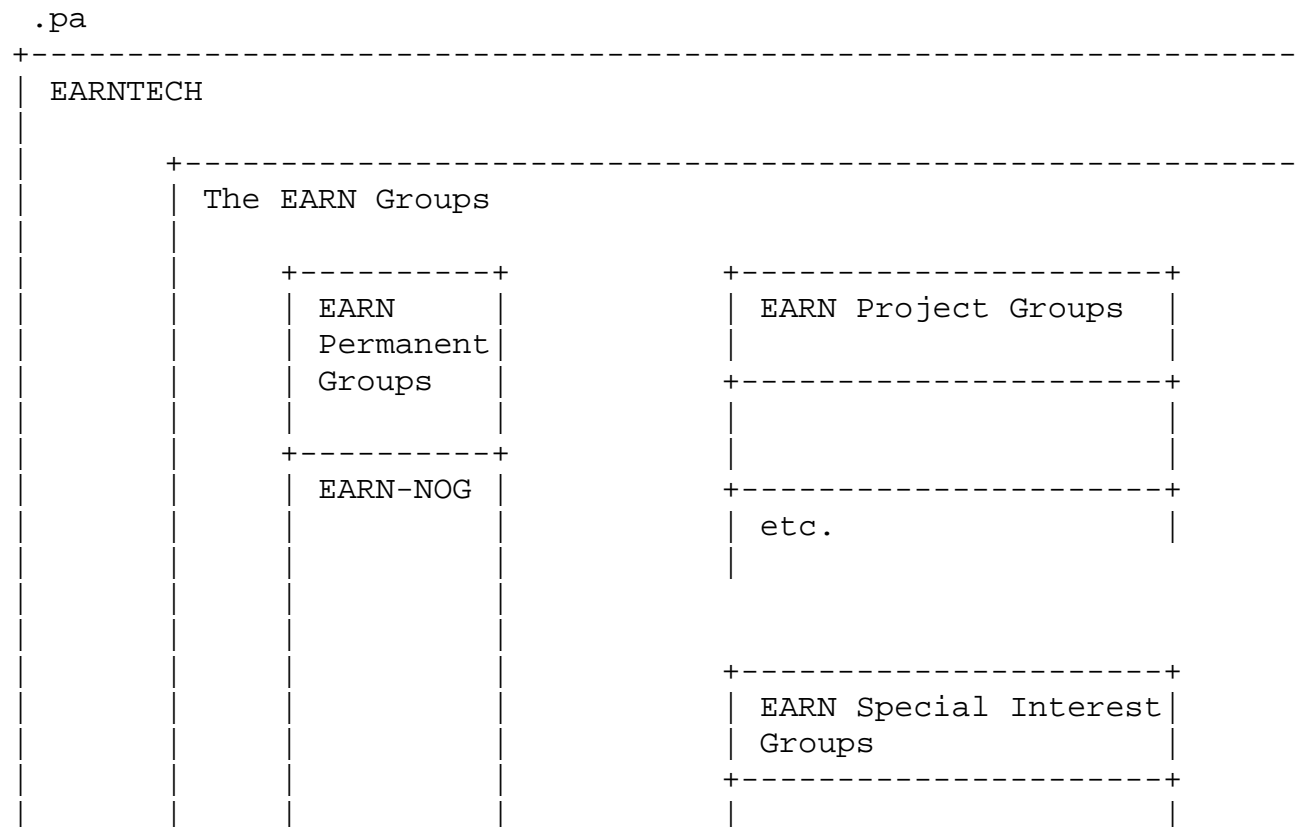
At present the EARNTECH is the forum where discuss all EARN technical matters; the organisation proposed below is to be considered as a rationalisation of the existing situation. There seems to be no reason

to have an EARNTECH with a limited number of members per country. Countries like Germany and France with more than a hundred nodes naturally have more technical people than a country like Luxembourg with only one node. Also, technical questions within EARN is so wide a notion that probably nobody can have a reasonably deep understanding of and interest in all.

Therefore the EARNTECH should be declared as an entirely open group, which could meet at EARN conventions and have a distribution list for very general and introductory questions for node administrators, like we have the EARN-UG list for users. There are about 500 nodes so that the potential number of members in EARNTECH is maybe more than 500, since the group would be completely open and some nodes could have more than one technically active person. The purpose of the EARNTECH would be information exchange, but also initial discussions providing input to be carried on.

Within the EARNTECH three different type of bodies are defined:

1. EARN Permanent Group
2. EARN Project Group
3. EARN Special Interest Group



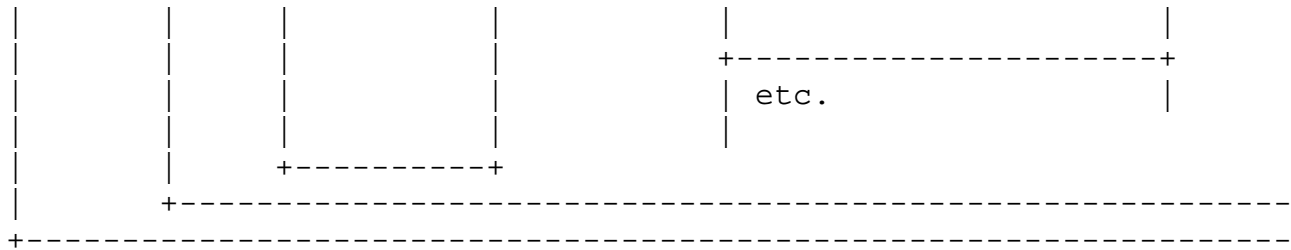


Figure 1. EARN technical activities

EARN PERMANENT GROUPS

For network management and operation permanent groups have to be established. The NOG is the one existing today, reporting to EARNEEXEC and EARNTECH. The EARN-NOG aims are described in "Appendix A. Network Operation Group" on page 11

EARN PROJECT GROUPS

In order to carry on network developments and projects, groups are needed with specific responsibilities and goals. The EARN Project Groups are established by the EARN Executive to undertake particular tasks for the network. All members of these groups are officially appointed by the EARNEEXEC or the EARN Board of Directors. Each group may have a chairman appointed by the EXEC, and will normally have at least one member of the EARNEEXEC as liaison a member of the Project Group. Each Project Group will be charged with specific actions, and will report to the EARNEEXEC. The EARN Project Groups will keep the EARN-NOG informed of progress on their work.

New project groups can be established by the EARNEEXEC, but essentially new projects involving significant allocation of funds requires a decision in the Board of Directors.

In "Appendix B. Actual Project Group" on page 12 a list of the actually active projects is reported.

EARN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Many technical developments may be important for the evolution of EARN on a short or long term perspective and thus warrant the establishment

of a technical group of people interested in or experts in specific areas of networking. The work in such groups (Special Interest Groups) would typically be focused on areas where no EARN projects are (yet) established.

The EARN Special Interest Groups are established by the EARN Executive, and are open to all EARNTECH members. Each Group takes responsibility for discussions in a general area of interest to EARN, and reports periodically to the EARNEXEC. Each Special Interest Group appoints its own chairman, and has a liaison member from the EXEC. The Special Interest Groups advise the EARNEXEC on matters of interest to the network.

The Special Interest Groups keep the Project Groups on related topics and the EARN NOG informed of their discussions, and are in turn kept informed by the EARN NOG, and by the EARNEXEC via their liaison member. The Special Interest Group would be open or closed and organise and elect a chairman as they see fit. The groups might produce reports and recommendations which would be submitted either to an existing project group for information or to the Executive or the Board if decisions on policy or money are recommended.

The Special Interest groups would work with normally open distribution lists and meet at EARN conventions or other occasions where many participants have a chance to be together.

The initiative to start a new Special Interest Group may come from anywhere, and the creation of new groups should be announced in EARNTECH so as to draw participants from a wide audience.

In "Appendix C. EARN Special Interest Groups" on page 13 a proposal list of Special Interest Group is reported for discussion in the next EARNTECH meeting.

APPENDIX A. NETWORK OPERATION GROUP

<to be include the Network Operation Group activities>

APPENDIX B. ACTUAL PROJECT GROUP

Examples of Project Group are the existing

APPENDIX C. EARN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Examples might be:

OSI Migration (general)
IBM Protocols
DEC Protocols
TCP/IP Protocols
Electronic mail
File transfer and FTAM
Servers/Services
LANs
High Speed Networking
PC Connectivity
Message Handling Systems
File Transfer, Access and Management
Information Services and Directory
Network Operations and X.25
Full screen services
Medium and high speed Communication
Management of Network Applications

Examples of existing Special Interest Group are

EARN X.400 Group;
EARN-SNA Group;
NETSERV Group;
LISTSERV Group.