

EARN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EARN Directives and Recommendations

Re-issue of the document approved by the Executive and Board in 1988

issued by
The secretariat
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1 Requirement

The way in which EARN nodes are operated is to a great extent dictated by the site at which it is located. This has led to difficulties in attempting to provide some defined level of service and in furthering some projects.

2 Proposal

It is proposed to define EARN 'directives' and EARN 'recommendations'. These directives and recommendations will apply to 'categories' of nodes. These directives and recommendations will be issued by the EARN executive or the EARN Board of Directors as required to ensure the effective and efficient operation of EARN and its development.

3 Categories of nodes

All nodes fall into one of the categories listed below.

3.1 International nodes

International nodes are nodes connected to one or more nodes in other countries.

3.2 Transit nodes

Transit nodes are nodes which are connected to more than one node and are not international nodes.

3.3 End nodes

End nodes are connected to only one other node and are not international nodes.

4 Directives and recommendations

4.1 Directives

Directives shall be implemented by relevant nodes.

4.2 Recommendations

Recommendations are expected to be implemented by relevant nodes.

5 Development of directives and recommendations

Only the EARN Executive or EARN Board of Directors shall issue directives and recommendations. However they will be often suggested and prepared by the EARN technical group.

Directives and recommendations will be publicised in the Board of Directors distribution list and there will be a period of 14 days for objections to be registered. In general it is expected that all necessary agreements will have been obtained before they are issued. Objections shall nullify a directive or recommendation directive until resolved.

6 Examples

A few examples of typical mandatory directives and recommendations are given.

6.1 Directives

A directive to undertake certain international topology changes could be applied to international nodes. A directive to update routing tables within 10 days could be applied to international and transit nodes.

6.2 Recommendations

A recommendation to operate mail systems conforming to RFC822 could be applied to all nodes.

A recommendation to provide the mail id POSTMAST could be applied to all nodes.