

EARN EXECUTIVE - CONFIDENTIAL TO THE EARN EXECUTIVE

Proposal for re-organisation of EARNTECH - Draft  
On acceptance for comment from BOD and then EARNTECH

issued by  
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February 1, 1989

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Organization of technical work in EARN  
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EARNTECH  
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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 BOD.

In time EARNTECH, as measured by the number of people on the (closed) EARNTECH lists, has grown to more than 160 people, persons from all over the world, essentially being an open group although one of the list owners must put a person on the list. Many people are only on the list to listen, and the EARNTECH discussion is also propagated to other distribution lists.

After the NOG was defined, 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 Luxemburg with only one node. Also, technical questions within EARN is so wide a notion that probably nobody can have a reasonably deep understanding 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.

There seems to be no need for a formal structure in EARNTECH.

Technical groups  
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For projects and operations we need more well defined groups. The NOG has been mentioned and it is established with the responsibility for the international backbone.

For the OSI migration project a group is being established with people at the switch sites and those working with the G-boxes and E-boxes and others who may contribute to the project. A distribution list is being set up.

Other areas like X.400 or SNA could be important for the development of EARN and thus warrant the establishment of a technical group. In analogy with bitnet, and as a forum for discussions like the recent ones it might even be relevant to have a list called PRINCIPL for discussion of topics like rights to software etc., although EARN would probably not have a project working on this.

Since the groups would consist of people working with projects, they would normally be closed, but notebooks of their distribution lists would probably be open.

The technical groups should work with EARN staff and exec members who would be responsible for getting decisions in the board based on the work in the groups, and for securing the necessary budget for activities and implementations.

The idea to establish a new group could come from everywhere, and the groups could be announced in EARNTECH to draw participants from a large group of experts. Naturally, start of new EARN projects and allocation of funds would require a decision in the board.