



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE LEVELS, SA 5095, AUSTRALIA. TELEPHONE 236 2211. TELEX: 82565
FAX NUMBERS: City Campus (08) 223 5060; The Levels Campus (08) 349 6939; Whyalla Campus (086) 45 5514

Steering Committee Members

Dear AARNet Steering Committee Member,

Implementation of the AARNet is almost upon us. At the Steering Committee meeting on 14 December, I believe we must set the stage for a new and different endeavour: managing the development and growth of the AARNet, rather than determining what to build. This new endeavour requires a new management structure.

It has been suggested to me that the AARNet is simply a service to be provided by the AV-CC, and that the institution's role is merely that of customers. I believe this is very much an over-simplification, ignoring completely the enormous amount of co-operative effort which is involved, particularly in the regional networks.

In order to provide at least a starting point for debate I have developed a draft proposal for a constitution for the AARNet, including a management structure. It is far from perfect, but it does address the issues I believe are important, including:

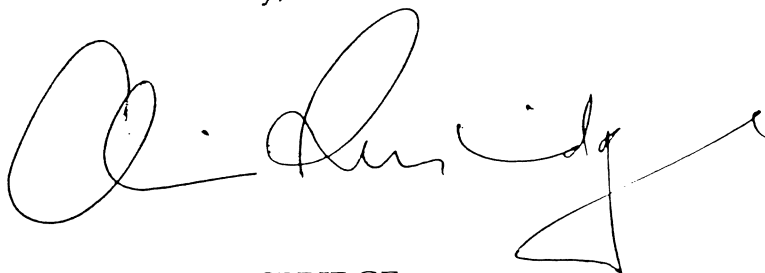
- a policy making body
- an executive body able to hire staff, enter contracts, own equipment etc
- recognition of the regional networks
- user liaison and feedback mechanisms, including technical advice
- a means of opting out
- mechanisms for dealing with new members
- a means of changing the constitution
- AARNet obligations and member obligations



ALSO AT: NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000. TELEPHONE: (08) 236 2211. TELEX: 82565.
AND NICOLSON AVENUE, WHYALLA NORRIE, 5608. TELEPHONE: (086) 45 7744. TELEX: 80268.

I would be delighted to receive constructive suggestions to change the document (ie with hints on how the change could be achieved), or to be able to comment on someone else's superior suggestion. I should stress that this proposal does not represent anyone's official position (not even this Institute's).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Rusbridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a sharp downward stroke.

CHRIS A. RUSBRIDGE
Manager, Academic Computing Service

30th November, 1989

Draft D

Proposed draft AARNet Constitution

Abstract

The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) is a cooperative effort between the AV-CC, the ACDP and CSIRO to provide common data communications facilities to each participating institution. In common with other AV-CC/ACDP joint activities, this activity is to be funded by a financial commitment from each participating institution to cover the operational and management expenditure in providing this facility to members.

Preamble

The AARNet is not simply a service provided by the AV-CC. It involves extensive cooperation between many parties. This is because the AARNet does not attempt to manage the entire network centrally. The important part of the network for many users will be the Regional Network, which will interface directly to their institution. The AARNet has chosen not to be directly involved in the management of these Regional Networks.

This draft Constitution aims to define a structure for the management of the AARNet which satisfies the following criteria:

- a) the organisation is accountable to the AARNet ^{owners} owners, members and users,
- b) the organisation provides a legal framework for entering contracts and licence agreements, for the ownership of equipment and the employment of staff,
- c) the organisation structure provides management responsibility and accountability to staff
- d) the organisation structure provides a responsive consultative framework for liaison with the user community
- e) the organisation has the skills available to it for effective policy formulation and management
- f) the organisation reflects the structure of the AARNet, allowing for regional and national networks. In particular, there must be a strong relationship between the two tiers or domains of the organisation.

The proposed constitution achieves these aims through the establishment of regional and national boards with policy control, with membership and mechanisms relating to the owners and the members, and with formal administrative details handled by the AV-CC.

Section 1

The AARNet

1.1 Mission

The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) is a non-profit co-operative partnership that exists to enhance communication and collaboration between academic, research and other associated institutions by installing and managing network connections.

The AARNet Members contribute finances to support such connections. The AARNet comprises regional networks, and a national backbone network linking them.

1.2 Affiliated Networks

To provide its Members with the ability for communications and co-operation amongst more wide-spread communities of interest the AARNet provides Network-wide interconnections to additional networks in Australia and throughout the world, whenever a significant portion of its Members have goals and objectives in common with the members of those other networks.

1.3 Components of the AARNet

The Institutional classifications are as follows:

The Owners are the founding and sponsoring organisations. In particular the AV-CC has a special role in providing managerial, budgetting and other services.

The inaugural owners are:

The Australian Committee of Directors and Principals of Higher Education (ACDP)

The Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee (AV-CC)

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

The AARNet comprises a backbone network, and a number of regional networks (initially one per State). The regional networks are organised to meet local conditions, and are serviced by local staff. These staff are either employed by the AARNet Central Office and seconded to the Regional Network, or employed by a member organisation and made available under contract to the AARNet.

The Regional Networks are:

<insert network names>

The Members are institutions participating in the network; the AARNet is run for their benefit, that is to provide them with the data communications services they require. There are different categories of membership: Full Members, Associate Members and Commercial Associate Members.

The Full Members are:

Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education and Institutes of Technology (whose principals are members of the ACDP)

Institutes of the CSIRO

Universities (whose Vice-Chancellors are members of the AV-CC)

The initial Associate Members are:

None

The initial Commercial Associate Members are:

None

Further Full Membership, Associate Membership and Commercial Associate Membership is at the discretion of the AARNet.

In this constitution, the term "Member" not otherwise qualified means any class of membership, and all members have equal rights unless otherwise indicated.

1.4 Member Representation

Each Member, Associate Member and Commercial Associate Member designates an AARNet Representative to interact with other Members and with the AARNet on all matters relating to the policies and procedures set forth in this document. The AARNet requests that the AARNet Representative should be an individual in a management position, and should have a working technical familiarity with the capabilities and limitations of the networking protocols that the Members must use.

The individuals filling these roles must have a node address supported by agreed networking protocols. They are expected to use their computing systems with a frequency sufficient to provide timely response to communications from the AARNet Representatives of other Members.

1.5 National Board

The AARNet is administered by the AARNet National Board, which has initially the following membership:

Chair appointed by the AV-CC

2 Directors appointed by the ACDP

2 Directors appointed by the AV-CC

1 Director appointed by the CSIRO

1 Director appointed by the Australian Research Council (ARC)

The AARNet chief executive officer will attend all meetings of the National Board.

The National Board is responsible to the Owners and Members for acting on their behalf in accordance with the policies and procedures set out in this Constitution, and other policies as may be determined to control:

- . the AARNet Constitution
- . general direction and policy issues for the AARNet

. approval of the AARNet annual budget, membership fees, and other policy issues relating to funding

. the conditions for Membership, Associate Membership, and Commercial Associate Membership in the Consortium;

. the approval of agreements with the administrative agents of external networks for the operation of links between the AARNet and those other networks, and the policies governing the purposes for which these links may be used; and other specific items as may be approved.

Where no AARNet policy exists, the policies of the AV-CC shall apply.

1.6 Regional Network Boards

Each Regional Network is administered by a Regional Network Board. The membership of each Regional Network Board is on a regional basis, determined by local conditions, but is likely to include the AARNet Representatives of Members participating in the Regional Network. AARNet management staff may be invited to attend.

Each Regional Network Board is responsible to the National Board and to Members for acting on their behalf in accordance with the policies and procedures set out in this Constitution, and other policies as may be determined to control:

. general direction and policy issues for the Regional Network;

. recommending the Regional Network annual budget, membership fees, and other policy issues relating to funding to the National Board;

. Member adherence to the Network-wide networking, transmission, and information-content protocols to be used, to enable and preserve the ability for communication between any two Members;

. the policies governing the connection of Associates and Commercial Associates to the Regional Networks;

and other specific items as may be approved.

Where the policies of the Regional Network Board and the National Board conflict, the latter shall prevail.

1.7 AARNet Central Office

The AV-CC will initially act as the AARNet Central Office. The AARNet Central Office will formally employ all AARNet staff, will formally acquire and own all AARNet equipment, and will formally negotiate and enter into all contracts and software licences on behalf of the AARNet. The AARNet Central Office also provides financial and budgetary services to the AARNet.

Some or all functions of the AARNet Central Office may be delegated to one or more Members by mutual agreement.

1.7a Liaison and User Feedback

In a complex cooperative effort like the AARNet, involving many parties working together over extended periods, it is important that there be adequate mechanisms for liaison and feedback.

There should be a meeting of AARNet representatives at least once per year for this purpose. The occasion of the annual Networkshop is proposed.

In order to provide a channel for feedback and consultative processes between the National Board and the Members, between annual meetings, the AARNet representatives will elect a National Liaison Committee. The AARNet Central Office consults on objectives and priorities with the National Liaison Committee, which makes recommendations to the National Board.

1.8 National Technical Committee

The National Board is advised on technical development of the AARNet by the National Technical Committee, which has members appointed by the AARNet Owners. Members are appointed based on relevant technical skills and willingness to contribute to the development of the AARNet. The number of members will vary and will be determined by the National Board. The AARNet Central Office consults on technical issues with the National Technical Committee, which makes recommendations to the National Board, and keeps the National Liaison Committee informed.

1.9 Membership Fees

The Annual Membership Fees are set by the AARNet National Board to pay those costs that the Members have agreed to share for the operation of the AARNet Central Office, the AARNet links to affiliated or member networks, communication costs including Regional Networks, maintenance, depreciation, and expansion of facilities or services. The components of the membership fees that relate to Regional Networks are determined after advice from the Regional Network Boards. Membership fees may vary with the Regional Network, and with other factors such as the size of the member institution.

Nothing in this document supersedes or negates prior agreements made between individual members regarding cost recovery.

1.10 Modifications to the AARNet Constitution

1.10.1 Proposals

A proposal for modification of this constitution may be submitted to the National Board by the AARNet Representative of any Full Member. Such submission will be to the Chair of the National Board, who will immediately forward the proposal to the National Board for consideration. Within 20-calendar days of submission, the Chair will forward the proposal to the Owners and to the AARNet Representatives of all Full Members, together with any additional comments from the Board.

1.10.2 Voting

Only the AARNet Representatives of Full Members may vote on any proposal. Each person eligible to vote must return a positive or negative vote on the proposal to the Chair of the National Board within 30 calendar days of the proposal being transmitted or that member's vote will be considered an abstention. During the absence of an AARNet Representative eligible to cast a vote a designated alternative individual from that member organisation may vote on behalf of that Representative.

1.10.3 Approval

In order for a proposal to be approved, the positive votes must comprise at least a two-thirds majority of the possible votes.

1.10.4 Veto

The AARNet Owners each hold the power of veto over any proposals to change this constitution.

Section 2

Member Obligations

2.1 Transmitting over the Network

2.1.1 Authenticity and Confidentiality

The AARNet makes no guarantees and assumes no responsibilities for the integrity, authenticity, or confidentiality of information transmitted over Network links. Such matters are the responsibility of the individual Members generating, receiving, or routing that information. No Member may take any action that is intended to falsify the origin or destination identities or the information content of any transmission.

2.1.2 User Responsibilities

Each Member is expected to encourage an attitude of professionalism and responsibility amongst its user communities regarding their transmissions over the Network. All uses of Network links must be consistent with the Consortium's purpose of supporting the research, educational, administrative, and related support-service goals and objectives of the Members. Each member is responsible for informing its user communities that transmission over the Network for any other purpose jeopardizes the institution's Membership in the Consortium. Specifically, no user of any node in the Network may transmit anything outside its Member domain that is likely to be perceived by the recipient(s) as

- . an unsolicited attempt to promote the sale of goods, products, or services of any form that are offered by any non-Member for profit-making purposes, or

- . an attempt by the sender to intrude on, hamper, or otherwise disrupt the receiving computing systems or the recipients' use of those systems.

All members are required to inform their users of the obligations imposed by the AARNet membership or affiliation to international networks: e.g. acting as a routing node to a third country; violating regulations on trans-border data flow, etc.

2.1.3 Fee-For-Usage Services Provided Between Members

In the normal operation of its facilities, there may be services that one Member provides that are the subject of co-operative resource-sharing agreements with other institutions that are Members of the Consortium. Such services might perhaps include "remote job submission, execution, and retrieval" processing, or gateway access to other networks that have charges associated with traffic volumes, or any number of other services. The AARNet encourages Member use of the Network to facilitate such interinstitution resource-sharing ventures. However, the mechanisms and methods used by a service-providing Member to bill service-using Members for the usage of such services are in no way associated with the Membership Fee and are beyond the scope and concerns of the Consortium.

2.1.4 External Customers

Within some Member institutions, there may be nodes with user codes assigned for use by individuals or organisations whose only relation to the Member institution is that of a pay-for-services customer of the Member's computing facilities. A Member is at liberty to take whatever actions it deems appropriate to prevent such customers from transmitting or receiving over the Network. If a Member chooses not to prevent transmissions by and to its customers, it must inform those customers that they may only transmit information for non-profit purposes in direct support of the educational and research activities of Members.

2.1.5 Dealing with Abuses

Upon receipt of notification and reasonable evidence that one of its users has violated any of the foregoing behavioural obligations, a Member is expected to take prompt action to ensure that the violation does not occur again. The nature of that action is left to the discretion of the Member according to its own institutional policies and procedures, which are beyond the scope and concern of the Consortium.

2.2 Member-Internal Considerations

There are many within-Members matters that are above and beyond the scope and concern of the Consortium; for example:

1. Each Member is free to impose Network-access restrictions and additional behavioural obligations on the users of the nodes within its domain.
2. Each Member is free to use various mechanisms and methods to disperse or recover the cost of its Membership Fee (or any other institutional costs) within its own institutional jurisdiction.
3. Each Member is free to operate internal-use-only links that are not intended to be available to other Members.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. Anything that a Member does that is not in conflict with AARNet policies and procedures and does not degrade the use of the Network by other Members is beyond the scope and concerns of the Consortium.

2.3 Application for Membership

<To be supplied>

2.4 AARNet Administration Centre

<To be supplied>

2.5 Termination of Membership

A Member who fails to meet obligations to the AARNet as defined in these policies and procedures may have membership suspended or withdrawn by the National Board following advice from the Regional Network Board.

Otherwise, membership shall continue unless the Member elects to withdraw from the AARNet by formal notice in writing to the Chair of the National Board. Withdrawal shall take effect from the 31st of December at least 3 months after the formal notice is received.

Members withdrawing or whose membership is withdrawn shall pay all monies due to the AARNet immediately the withdrawal takes effect.

3. Acknowledgements

This document was derived from the NetNorth Policies and Procedures Manual via the Tuia Constitution (Tuia is the name of a proposed New Zealand network). My thanks to them. Any errors or inconsistencies cannot be laid at their doorstep.

Section 4

Membership Application Form

<to be supplied>