

Information Technologies and Services
UF Request For Comments: 0-B
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OITS Adopted: 05/07/92

First Submission:
Last Revision:

TITLE: E-mail Directories and Gateways

PREFERRED PRACTICES:

SMTP (the Internet standard) is the University of Florida preferred practice for e-mail exchange; e-mail agents must be able to communicate with other agents via SMTP (protocol).

STATEMENTS OF DIRECTION:

1] The University intends to provide a version of the "PH" directory system, currently implemented by Engineering Computing Services, for the Internet users on campus. Until other issues (e.g. privacy) can be addressed satisfactorily, the officially supported PH services shall be restricted to University-specific information only (i.e., home phone numbers, addresses shall be omitted).

2] The telephone directory which is currently on the CICS "Dean's Menu" is to be expanded to include e-mail addresses.

3] The University intends to provide CICS users with convenient access to an e-mail system which includes an SMTP gateway that is not dependent upon off-campus hardware and/or software.

Background and Comment

General - The Preferred Practice and Statements of Direction given here were adopted by the Council on Information Technologies and Services on 7 May 1992 on the basis of joint recommendations from Council's Standing Committees on Administrative Computing and on Networking and Telecommunications. This PP and the SOD's address technical issues only, hence by design omit consideration of legal, privacy, ownership, etc. matters. The intent of the Committee recommendations was to provide a portion of a much-needed basic technical framework. Therefore, to quote the Committees' report, "the recommendations are not intended to prevent the University from moving forward to newer technologies or other standards for the exchange of e-mail or directory services in the future." Also, it is not the intent of this PP and the SOD's to diminish function.

Preferred Practice

A "standard" in this context means that e-mail agents must conform if their users expect to have e-mail interchange supported on campus. The

Committees' recommendation made this point clear via its heading: "On-Campus technical support for E-mail Gateways."

Statements of Direction

Direction 1] By design, nothing is said about where this service shall be lodged nor about which agency shall operate it. Direction 3] (a) At the date of adoption, a CICS e-mail system is in place which provides integration into the existing "Dean's menu" system and access to SMTP via DISOSS running at the Northwest Regional Data Center and Softswitch running at the Northeast Regional Data Center. (b) The Committees' recommendations did not envision supporting exchange of messages among messaging services (e.g. CICS messaging, VM "TELL", etc.)