Network Working Group
Request for Comments: #239
NIC 7664
Categories: D.3
Related: #226, 229, 236

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HOST MNEMONICS PROPOSED IN RFC #226

(Note from NIC: These are comments sent by R.Braden to P. Karp in NIC 7626, and are now issued as NIC 7664, RFC 239 to include them in the dialogue along with RFC 226, 229, 236)

CCN is in full agreement that a standard set of host mnemonics should be selected. However, your proposed set is not fully satisfactory.

1. The set you suggest was created, I assume, by the systems programmer(s) who wrote TELNET in TENEX. It is a set of historical accidents, and shows it.

2. A better source for standard mnemonics might be the NIC site codes, since these have been chosen with more care and will become familiar as we begin to use the NIC on-line. Surely the NIC is a more reasonable source for a defacto standard than a particular system programmer.

3. Should mnemonics be limited to 6 characters?

4. The most recent list from BBN (NIC #7181, RFC #208, August 9, 1971) shows 40 hosts. You show only 20. Your proposed standard should include known hosts at this time.

5. The mnemonic "UCLA36" seems a particularly bad choice; "UCLA91" would be much better.

6. Also, we at CCN object to the short form "UCLA" for the NMC Sigma 7; that also is historical. We propose the following:

   host 1: UCLAS7 or UCLANM; host 65: UCLA91.

7. "SRIARC" is a poor choice; everybody calls it the NIC. So we suggest "SRINIC" for host 2.

Please, let's not perpetrate systems programmers' midnight decisions on all future Network users! Standards are vital, and deserve a little care.

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