Network Working Group   R. Braden
Request for Comments: #239   UCLA-CCN
NIC 7664   23 September 1971
Categories: D.3
Related: #226, 229, 236

                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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                                                          [Page 1]