The Association for Progressive Comunications
Further Developments

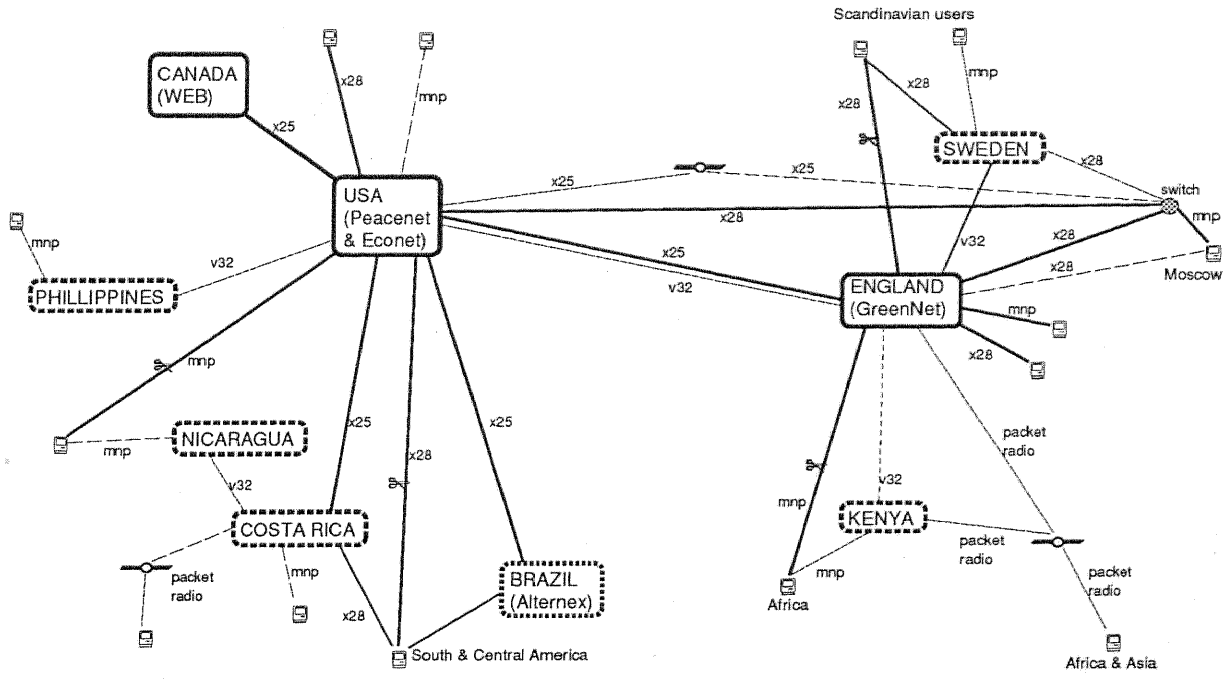
Having shown that a decentralised non-profit network can provide as good a service as any of the commercial networks, the existing networks have received a number of enquiries by groups wishing to create such networks in their own countries. Despite the fact that APC networks are available via data-networks in most of the developed world we believe that the needs of organisations in these countries are best served by a local network, provided such a network can meet high standards.

IGC and GreenNet have started a program, partly funded by the MacArthur Foundation, to support the creation of networks in a number of countries to serve their geographic regions. The map below shows the existing network and, dotted, the extensions being developed. Each of these networks will be independant, running on their own computers, with local support staff who understand the situation in their region.

The first result of the project will be linking the Canadian internal non-profit network (WEB) into the APC. They are due to be fully on-line from 17th April 1989. Following that we expect to see nodes operational in Sweden and Brazil by the end of May1989, followed a few months later by some or all of Costa Rica, Phillippines, Australia, Nicaragua, Kenya and several European countries.

A significant part of this project is devoted to looking into ways to help create networks in developing countries, especially those without the benefit of packet-switched data-lines. To link a node in a developing country to the nodes elsewhere in the world requires the use of either high-speed modems or packet-switched radio or possibly the use of commercial data-networks existing within large corporations.

The speed at which we are able to assist the creation of these networks will be dependant on the amount of support we are able to raise, either in terms of funds or in-kind donations of equipment, or the use of other commercial organisations facilities.



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Network Map and planned extensions

KEY:
x25 - fixed 96kbps lines, packet-switched
x28 - dialup through PDNs, 1200bps
v32 - direct dial, error corrected, 9600bps
mnp - direct dial, error corrected, 2400bps
packet radio - low orbit packet radio links, 1200bps

ATLANTIS - major node
- existing link
- existing link to be removed
- link to be installed
- terminals