Until recently, the Network Information Center ("the NIC") was located at SRI International. Although the official Internet NIC has moved to Virginia, SRI continues to provide Internet information services via the Network Information Systems Center (NISC). SRI NISC maintains a database of RFCs, Internet-Drafts, and other information files. Information is made available via anonymous FTP and in print. SRI-NIC also maintains a WHOIS database.

a WHOIS registry of network users, the NIC/Query browsing system, TACNEWS, the official DoD Host Name Service, official DDN protocol documents (other than the MIL-STDs), and other DDN documents, such as the RFC (Request for Comments) collection. Many online files are available through the NIC's automatic mail service, **service@ddn.nic.mil**.

The NIC registers hosts, domains, and network users, assigns IP network numbers and Autonomous System Numbers, and provides host name translation tables and domain name system server files to the DDN/DARPA Internet.

NSF Network Service Center (NNSC)

BBN Systems and Technologies Corporation
Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc.
10 Moulton Street
Cambridge, MA 021238
nnsc@nnsc.nsf.net
(617) 873-3400

NNSC makes documents available by both e-mail and FTP, and selected documents in print. If you have an e-mail connection to the Internet, you can obtain general help by sending an empty (blank) e-mail message to the automatic Info-Server at **info-server@nnsc.nsf.net**. If you have a full Internet connection, you can obtain documents through file transfer (FTP) from **nnsc.nsf.net**.

NNSC compiles ***The Internet Resource Guide,*** distributed by e-mail, FTP and in print, to encourage access to particular types of resources; i.e. computational facilities, library catalogs, archives, directory services, interconnected networks, and network information centers. . Also available in print (by US mail) are the ***NNSC Newsletter***, and the ***NSF Network News***.

SRI Network Information Systems Center (NISC)

SRI International
Network Information Systems Center
333 Ravenswood Avenue, Room EJ291
Menlo Park, CA 94025
nisc@nisc.sr.com
(415) 859-6387

The BITNET Network Information Center (BITNIC) is supported by EDUCOM and exists to support the use of BITNET network in higher education. As an Internet user, you may well have occasion to retrieve documents and informaton from the BITNET BITNIC. The BITNIC provides an online directory, conducts workshops, provides a great deal of end-user documentation, and answers questions about using BITNET. Documents are archived on a general purpose file server. You can obtain a list of them by sending mail to listserv@bitnic with the message **get bitnet articles index.** The BITNIC maintains many other useful documents about the BITNET network, its parent organization, the Corporation for Research and Educational Networking (CREN) and membership in CREN.

Defense Data Network Network Information Center (DDN NIC)

Government Systems, Inc.
Attn: Network Information Center
14200 Park Meadow Drive
Suite 200
Chantilly, VA 22021
nic@nic.ddn.mil (192.112.36.5)
(800) 365-3642
(703) 802-4535

The official Internet NIC is the Defense Data Network (DDN) Network Information Center (NIC), administered by Government Systems, Inc. (GSI). The following information is excerpted from the file *netinfo/what-the-nic-does.txt*, available from the host **nic.ddn.mil**.

The DDN NIC in Chantilly, VA, provides general user services to DDN users by telephone, electronic mail, and U.S. postal mail. It is funded by the Defense Department, Information Systems Agency's Defense Network System Organization (DISA DNSO).

The NIC works closely with all types network service staff, network protocol groups, vendors, contractors, government agencies, and military sponsors to assist new users and potential subscribers in obtaining pertinent network information.

The NIC provides databases and information servers, including

infrastructure. The Internet Society is an international, professional membership organization open to individuals, corporations, research and educational organizations, and government agencies.

The Internet Society is a nonprofit organization that includes EDUCOM, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), and the Association of European Networking Organizations called RARE (Associés pour la Recherche Européenne,). It encompasses the Internet Activities Board (IAB), the body that has provided the focus for much of the research and development that has supported the Internet since 1983.

The objectives of the Internet Society include:

- Promoting and supporting the technical evolution of the Internet as a research and educational organization and stimulating participation of the scientific community, industry, government and others in its evolution.
- Educating the scientific community, industry and the public at large concerning the technology, use and application of the Internet.
- Promoting scientific and educational applications of Internet technology for the benefit of government, colleges, universities and the public at large.
- Providing a forum for exploring new Internet applications and fostering collaboration among organizations in their operation and use of the Internet.

Network Information Centers (NICs)

BITNET Network Information Center (BITNIC)
EDUCOM
Suite 600
112 16th Street, N.W.
Washington,D.C. 20036-4823
info@bitnic.educom.edu
(202) 872-4200

P.O. Box 717
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(415) 322-3778

(The information in this section is taken from the CPSR Overview made available by Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.)

Founded in 1981 by a small group of computer scientists concerned about the use of computers in nuclear weapons systems, CPSR has grown into a national public-interest alliance of computer industry professionals dedicated to examining the impact of technology on society.

CPSR empowers computer professionals and computer users to advocate for the responsible use of information technology and empowers all who use computer technology to participate in the public debate. As technical experts, CPSR members provide the public and policymakers with realistic assessments of the power, promise, and limitations of computer technology. As an organization of concerned citizens, CPSR directs public attention to critical choices concerning the applications of computing and how those choices affect society.

Currently, CPSR has 21 chapters in the U.S. and affiliations with similar groups worldwide. In addition to the National Office in Palo Alto, CPSR maintains offices in Washington, D.C. and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Administrative Organizations

The Internet Society
1895 Preston White Drive, Suite 100
Reston, VA 22091
isoc@nri.reston.va.us
(703) 620-8990

The Internet Society was formed in 1992 to promote and support the evolution and growth of the Internet into a global research and development communications and information

determine the need for and evaluate the provision of computing resources. It also uses its machine-readable database of EDUCOM membership records and participating school data for administrative purposes and special projects. EDUCOM promotes the use of electronic academic networks, including the BITNET international network, maintained by the Corporation for Research and Educational Networking (CREN).

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)

155 Second Street
Cambridge, MA 02121
eff@eff.org
(617) 864-0665

The EFF was established to help "civilize the electronic frontier," to make it useful and beneficial to everyone, not just the technical elite, and to do this in a way that is in keeping with the society's highest traditions of the free and open flow of information and communication. The EFF mission statement includes the following goals:

- to engage in and support educational activities which increase popular understanding of the opportunities and challenges posed by developments in computing and telecommunications;
- to develop among policy-makers a better understanding of the issues underlying free and open telecommunications, and support the creation of legal and structural approaches which will ease the assimilation of these new technologies by society;
- to raise public awareness about civil liberties issues arising from the rapid advancement in the area of new computer-based communications media, and when necessary, support litigation in the public interest to preserve, protect and extend First Amendment rights within the realm of computing and telecommunications technology;
- to encourage and support the development of new tools which will endow non-technical users with full and easy access to computer-based telecommunications.

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR)

CNI is a joint project of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), CAUSE, and EDUCOM that promotes the creation of and access to information resources in networked environments to enrich scholarship and enhance intellectual productivity. Founded in March 1990, CNI seeks to realize the promise of high performance computers and advanced networks for universal information access and delivery.

Members include institutions of higher education, publishers, network service providers, computer hardware and software vendors, library organizations and networks, and public and state libraries. Their priorities ranges from modernization of scholarly publishing and communication to the development of directories and resource information services to facilitate network use; from system architecture and standards that will enable interoperability to legislation that addresses the use of networks for information access and delivery; from teaching and learning to management and professional user education. Major initiatives and endorsed projects which support this broad ranging agenda reflect the shared vision of information management in the 21st century.

EDUCOM
1112 16th Street, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 872-4200

Founded in 1964, EDUCOM is a nonprofit consortium of higher education institutions which facilitates the introduction, use, access to, and management of information resources in teaching, learning, scholarship and research. EDUCOM promotes sharing and more effective use of computer and communications technology, and works in cooperation and partnership with the broader education and library communities, professional societies, government at all levels, and information industries.

EDUCOM's scope includes resource-sharing among colleges and universities in the application of computing and other technology---distributed computing, computer networks; computing for instruction, administration, and research; videodisc technology; e-mail; and computer conferencing.

EDUCOM offers member institutions consulting assistance to

Chapter 6: Internet Organizations

This chapter describes a very few of the many organizations and associations involved in promoting, developing, and managing some aspect of the Internet. Membership in these organizations and associations is often institutional, but several provide for individuals as well, and all of them are vital to the dissemination of the many facets of information about the Internet. The activity represented by these organizations ranges from network information centers providing user assistance services to professional membership associations working on the evolution of an information infrastructure. This list is an essential starting point for locating the precise type of organization to meet your specific requirements, and will lead to a broader range of affiliations. We also recommend that you check the bibliography in Appendix D which includes selections with more comprehensive lists of Internet organizations and associations.

The information in this section is derived from the material published by each of the organizations.

Network Associations

Coalition for Networked Information
1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
info@cni.org
(202) 232-2466