Appendix A — Inter-Language Calling Recommendations

A. Inter-Language Calling Requirements

Inter-language calling rules allow language processors (e.g., C, FORTRAN, Pascal) to directly call most system routines. Some existing system routines might not be callable from some languages. All routines should adhere to the following rules:

- The names should not contain special characters that cannot be supported by a language that needs to perform inter-language calling.
- The interface should be designed so that the parameters are data types common to most languages.
- Compatibility for old programs could require development of compatibility libraries with old names.

Programs should be able to call routines in a different language as easily as calling routines of the same language. The programmer is expected to know the call interface of the routine and to match the data types of the arguments with the parameters. If equivalent data types are available in both languages involved, special glue routines should not be required.

Note: While the goal for this ABI is to make inter-language calling possible for a large number of the existing system routines, inter-language calls may not be possible for all cases.