



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET




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### Distributed Computing Workshop: Enabling Advanced Applications

CENIC, in partnership with NLANR, is presenting the Distributed Computing Workshop: Enabling Advanced Applications at UCLA on May 24 and 25. The purpose of this workshop is to address the issues confronted by those working to make biomedical applications run over advanced networks (such as CalREN-2 and Internet2). While the focus is on biomedical apps, the techniques are applicable to most advanced applications. The issues are primarily centered on tuning applications and making use of GRID technologies (such as Globus). Carl Kesselman, co-author of Globus, will present a talk on the Globus toolkit and Grid computing. Michael Ackerman, Assistant Director, National Library of Medicine, will provide the keynote on the challenges faced by health sciences applications. There will also be a demonstration from the University of Illinois on their "Pelvic Floor" application regarding how it was tuned for the advanced network.

The workshop features an extensive hands-on component: participants will make use of Globus accounts across several remote supercomputing platforms. Tutorials will focus on strategies for using and optimizing distributed computing codes, and use case studies to walk through successful, practical examples. Other features include discussions of visualization codes such as MPIRE and CACTUS as examples of distributed rendering methods for complex data sets.

Participation in this workshop is very limited. The registration deadline is May 12th. The preliminary agenda is at <http://dast.nlanr.net/Training/DCWMay2000/dcwagenda.html>

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### Stanford Study Details Online News Reading Habits

A new Stanford University study looked at how people read online content, specifically news. In addition to examining news reading habits in general, investigators used eye tracking technology to study how people view Web pages. It seems the number of news junkies is dropping, but those that do continue to read news increasingly rely on online sources. News readers also read wide, but shallow - they visit many news sites, but don't go deep into any one site. As we at Netsurfer have known for years, people prefer skimming briefs before choosing to investigate items in depth. The eye-tracking analysis found that people gaze first at the text on a Web site, and that banner ads do get noticed. Online content providers will find lots of other interesting results here, too.

For details about the study, visit <http://www.poynter.org/eyetrack2000/index.htm>

To find out more about Netsurfer Digest, visit <http://www.netsurf.com/nsd/>

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### Geology Labs Online Project Release Virtual River Discharge Activity

The BETA release of a new activity for the Geology Labs On-Line project. VirtualRiver-Discharge is now available. The software is designed as an interactive Web-based lab for introductory earth or environmental

science courses at the university level. It may also be appropriate for some high school or middle school earth science classes. The author is currently seeking reviewers for the activity. A demonstration version is available (a link can be found on the first page) that gives you the opportunity for a quick overview.

VirtualRiver-Discharge focuses on the determination of a stream's discharge using the "method of verticals." VirtualRiver-Discharge, similar to previous virtual labs (Virtual Earthquake and Virtual Dating), requires students to interact with the content of a Web page (through Java Applets, JavaScripts, Dynamic HTML, and Shockwave Animations) in order to make careful observations and measurements, do simple calculations, and answer questions about their work. If the student correctly completes all aspects of the activity, a personalized "Certificate of Completion" is awarded to him/her. The certificate is proof positive that the student has completed the lab.

Visit <http://vcourseware.calst.atela.edu/GeoLabs> and follow the link to Virtual River.

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### President's Message

As the spring semester draws to a close at the CENIC Charter Universities, there is a surge in CENIC activity in preparation for the fall academic calendar.

Applications Coordination -- With the assistance of NLANR, we are developing a database of the research and instructional applications at CENIC universities that will make use of CalREN-2 and Internet2. Currently, the NLANR database contains nearly 900 entries of advanced applications. About 10 percent, or 85, involve CENIC universities. Most of these were taken from the original NSF proposals. Upon inspection, there are questions about how many of these applications are really active. Over the summer months, CENIC staff will validate the current data and create a database that encompasses a broader range of applications. CENIC researchers will be targeted to contribute their applications to the database. Also, we are planning some applications workshops for next year. These will be jointly sponsored with NLANR.

CalREN-2 Additions -- The long awaited North-South OC-12 link will be installed. This will facilitate collaborative research and instructional activities among California institutions without traversing Internet2's Abilene backbone. The University and Community College System of Nevada will connect NevadaNet to CalREN-2 at Sacramento and Anaheim. The connection between CUDI (Mexico) and CalREN-2 at the San Diego Supercomputing Center will be made. The lack of fiber and the outrageous costs have delayed completing this task.

CalREN-2 Planning for the Future -- The Board has asked the Technical Advisory Council to begin planning for the future of CalREN-2. The majority of our contracts for CalREN-2 will expire at the end of September 2001. We need to take this opportunity to layout a game plan for October 2001 and beyond.

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### DARPA Online Seminars on NEXT Generation Internet Technologies

The DARPA Next Generation Internet program is sponsoring a new series of live and telecast seminars on Next Generation Internet technologies. These seminars are multicast live on the Internet and are also available by Webcast using RealMedia. The live multicast allows real-time questions and comments from the remote audience. The session addresses, Webcast details, and information on non-live access to the seminar are available online at the SuperNet website. SuperNet is a cross-country network funded by DARPA's NGI (Next Generation Internet) Program and is composed of several interconnected and interoperating testbeds.

For more information about the seminars, visit <http://www.ngi-supernet.org/conferences.html>.

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### CENIC Welcomes Three New Associates

CENIC is pleased to welcome three new Associates to its program. Raytheon, General Atomics, and AVT have signed up as CENIC Affiliates.

Current CENIC Associates include:

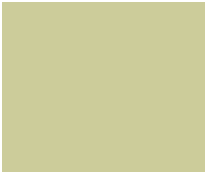
**CENIC Partners:** Cisco, IBM, Pacific Bell, and Sun Microsystems

**CENIC Affiliates:** AVT, General Atomics, and Raytheon

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### About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology, the California State University, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California to advance the use of communications technology in teaching, learning, and research at California's institutions of higher education. For more information about CENIC, visit <http://www.cenic.org>.



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