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Quote of the Month

"CENIC is excited to be an integral part of "The Quilt"-- we think that this coalition of network aggregators has the potential to improve how advanced network services are developed and delivered to U.S. research and education institutions."

--Tom West, President/Executive Director,CENIC

CENIC News

ONI Initiative "Network Architecture and Design" Document Released

In preparation for the implementation of its third major project, the Optical Network Infrastructure Initiative (ONI), CENIC has released a "Network Architecture and Design" document that provides some of the technical specifics surrounding the development of the ONI.

CENIC's Optical Network Infrastructure Initiative (ONI) is creating a powerful optical network backbone that will serve the future networking needs of all of California's universities, research institutions, community colleges, and K-12 schools. CENIC's ONI was designed to develop a shared optical infrastructure that would immediately augment and eventually replace the various SONET advanced-services networks being used by various sectors of the CENIC community today.

The "Network Architecture and Design" document can be downloaded from the CENIC website: http://www.cenic.org/NAD_July16.pdf.

More information about the ONI can be obtained on the CENIC website at: <http://www.cenic.org/ONI.html>.

UCAID Stitches Regional Network Aggregators Together into "The Quilt"

The Quilt is a UCAID Project whose participants are non-profit network aggregators -- like CENIC -- dedicated to advancing research and education in the United States by both providing a broad range of advanced networking services to their constituents, and facilitating innovative and successful projects and productive working relationships.

CENIC President/Executive Director Tom West sits on The Quilt's Steering Committee. CENIC was one of the initial participants in this project.

Other initial project participants included representatives from the following organizations: EDUCAUSE, Front Range Gigapop (FRGP), Great Plains Network (GPN), Mid-Atlantic Crossroads (MAX), Merit Network, Inc.(Merit), Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN), North Carolina Gigapop,

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Net.Work.Virginia, Northern Crossroads (NoX), NYSERNet, OARnet, Pacific/Northwest Gigapop (PNWGP), Pittsburgh GigaPop, Southern Crossroads (SoX), Southeastern Research Universities Association (SURA), Texas GigaPop.

Participation in The Quilt is open: to non-profit network aggregators dedicated to advancing research and education in the United States that support advanced network services and

to other organizations invited by The Quilt Steering Committee which demonstrate on-going interest in and support for the goals and activities of The Quilt and leadership in advanced networking at the regional level.

Acknowledgement: The Quilt, <http://www.thequilt.net/>

DCP Director of Applications Honored by ISTE

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) named DCP Director of Applications John Vaillie one of two recipients of its 2001 "Learning and Leading with Technology Award".

ISTE is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to promoting the appropriate use of information technology to support and improve learning, teaching, and administration in the K-12 schools. The "Learning and Leading with Technology Award" is given each year to those individuals who have made significant progress in promoting the successful use of technology in the K-12 environment.

Dr. John Vaillie, a former classroom teacher, elementary school principal, and assistant superintendent, has held a number of prestigious positions in the national educational technology community. Before joining CENIC, Dr. Vaillie served simultaneously as CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and as the Executive Director of the National Education Computing Association (NECA), two influential Eugene, Oregon-based institutions. He was previously the Executive Director of California Instructional Technology Clearinghouse (1996-1999), and Executive Director of Computer Using Educators, Inc. (1993-1996).

Acknowledgement: Jessica Cole, ISTE, <http://www.iste.org>

Dates for CENIC 2002 Annual Conference Announced

The CENIC 2002 Annual Conference will be held from May 4 to May 8, 2002 at the beautiful Paradise Point Resort located on Mission Bay in San Diego, California. This is always an exciting, informative, and – most importantly – fun event that attracts participants from industry, state and local government, and networking organizations. We hope to see you there!

National Networking News

PACI.org Website Launched

Scientists who use, or would like to use, the computational resources provided through the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (PACI) program can now find all the information they need at <http://www.paci.org>.

The new website combines information about the two PACI partnerships—the National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI) and the National Computational Science Alliance (Alliance) --and the Terascale Computing System at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) on a site that is easy to use and focused exclusively on the needs of researchers who use high-performance computing systems. Each year more than 5,000 scientists from across the U.S. use PACI resources for simulation, data analysis, and scientific visualization.

The new site features a specialized grid computing portal, the PACI HotPage (<https://hotpage.paci.org>), which allows users to view the status of PACI resources and supports secure, interactive access to the resources. Based on the NPACI GridPort Toolkit, the PACI HotPage gives users direct access to their HPC accounts, job management tools, file systems, and system-wide information.

Source: David Hart, SDSC

Wireless Networks: Widely Available and Wide Open

The folks over at ExtremeTech did a little experiment in detecting wireless networks based on widely available and inexpensive 802.11b hardware. They picked up a couple of sensitive antennas, a laptop with a wireless network card, and some recently released network-sniffing software, then drove around in a car seeing how many networks they could casually detect.

The results are shocking. After sampling some random areas in New York and Silicon Valley, they determined that at least 40% of all easily publicly detectable wireless networks are insecure and wide-open to hacking. The story is a bit technical but should be read by anybody who contemplates running a wireless 802.11b network at work or at home. Tips on securing your set-up are included.

More info: <http://www.extremetech.com/article/0,3396,s%253D1024%2526a%253D13880,00.asp>

Source: Netsurfer Digest

Factoid: Internet Usage in the Workplace

Sixty-six percent of the US workforce now has Internet access at work, according to a new survey from Xylo. Last year, only 44 percent of US workers could go online in the office.

Men and women use the Internet at work in more or less equal numbers, although younger women are far more likely to use the Net at work. Young men, however, are more likely to use the Internet at work for personal reasons and more likely to say that it enhances their productivity.

Source: <http://www.xylo.com>

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 facilitate and coordinate the deployment, development, and operation of a set of seamless and robust advanced network services. The CENIC Associates program offers qualified companies the opportunity to collaborate with CENIC in pursuit of the goal of providing the most advanced network services for research and education. Cisco Systems, Nortel Networks, Pacific Bell, and the University and Community College System of Nevada are CENIC's Partner Associates.

Subscription Information

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