



LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET



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CENIC News

President's Message

The new CalREN backbone infrastructure has been coming on-line for the past three months. Within a couple of weeks, it will be fully operational. Now, everyone is working feverishly to convert all the institutions — Caltech, Stanford, University of Southern California, the University of California campuses, the California State University campuses, the California Community Colleges and the county-based nodes for all of K-12 from the current backbone to the new CalREN. This is a massive effort involving hundreds of technical staff from institutions across the State.

One of the challenges is to make this transition transparent to the end users. So far, the team has been very successful. By the turn of the new-year, the conversion should be complete and if we are lucky it will be ho-hum to the students, faculty and researchers.

The power of the new multi-tiered network infrastructure will begin to be realized over the next academic year.

But that is not all. Implementation has started for National LambdaRail (NLR) that will connect CalREN to the most robust national backbone infrastructure ever developed by and for the research and education community. More on this in future CENIC Today issues.

Source: Tom West, CENIC

CalREN Optical Network Deployment Update

The final segment of the optical backbone – the Central Valley route between Sacramento and Los Angeles, with hub sites at Merced, Fresno, and Bakersfield – has been 'lit'. In addition to providing

backbone DC network access, express waves on this path provide 2.5 and 10 Gigabit/second DC and HPR alternate path connections between northern and southern California. CENIC's NOC expects to have IP traffic operating over the Central Valley backbone segment by mid-October.

All Southern California CalREN 2 research campuses have been routing production traffic over the new optical CalREN backbone

Some challenges have arisen in bringing up high-speed (10 Gigabit) optical connections over the San Francisco metro loop. Although the Northern California campus IP connections have been successfully tested, work on underlying optical infrastructure delayed the start of production testing of the Northern California network connections. However, production traffic for the research campuses should begin to be routed over this last portion of the optical network by mid October.

Equipment and circuit orders have been placed for the migration of the CSU campuses, California Community Colleges and the Digital California K-12 node sites over to the new backbone. CENIC's current plan is to complete this work, except where SBC construction work is needed, in calendar 2003. This migration involves the move or replacement of some 200 tail circuits.

Source: Greg Scott, CENIC

CENIC Initiatives Featured at NSBA Conference

The National School Board Association (NSBA) is doing a one day session focusing on connectivity in California (including CENIC's One Gigabit or Bust Initiative and the Digital California Project) at its annual technology conference. The day-long meeting is included in a special free preconference session on Tuesday, October 21 entitled *National Challenges... California Solutions*. The conference will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center. The agenda for this special session can be found at http://www.nsba.org/t+/attend/CAEducators_Agenda.cfm

For registration discounts and information on the conference, contact Bob Walczak, 415-499-8725, bobwalczak@lvha.net

Sign-up for Gigabit or Bust Roundtable Meeting

The Gigabit or Bust Initiative will have a Roundtable meeting on November 5-6, 2003 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento. This event, organized around topical task forces, will begin to identify the opportunities and obstacles to achieving one gigabit throughout California by 2010 and establish an action plan to achieve this goal.

For more information or to sign-up, go to <http://www.cenic.org/gb/events/rt1103/agenda.htm>

Enter the On the Road to a Gigabit Awards

Entries are being accepted until December 5, 2003 for the 2004 On the Road to a Gigabit Awards. Awards, sponsored by CENIC and Cal(IT)2, are given in six categories:

- Biggest, Fastest in the West: The Biggest, Fastest in the West Award honors the fastest and most scalable high-performance networking application/technology.
- Community: The Community Award honors innovative uses of high-performance networking to overcome network disadvantages (economic and/or location based).
- Education: The Education Award honors innovative uses of high-performance networking in K-12 and higher education.
- Gigabit or Bust: The Gigabit or Bust Award honors the high-performance networking application/technology that best exemplifies what life would be like in a gigabit-connected world.
- Innovation: The Innovation Award recognizes innovative contributions to high-performance networking that best exemplify the creative spirit and the bottoms-up philosophy that created the Internet.
- Partnership: The Partnership Award honors the best use of high-performance networking developed by a private/public partnership.

Join the DCP E-rate Consortium

Every school district and county office of education will receive an invitation letter in early October requesting the district or COE to sign a Letter of Agency (LOA) to help obtain much needed discounts for the DCP network. The LOA will allow DCP to include districts and COEs in its statewide E-rate discount application for 2004-2005. The letters of agency are due by November 7th.

By signing a LOA, local districts allow DCP to seek E-rate discounts on an extensive network that requires upgrading and expansion in a budgetary time when resources have dramatically declined. There is no cost or risk for a district or COE to sign the letter of agency; doing so does not affect any district or COE's own E-rate application. Please use the links below and download the LOA form today. Your participation in the consortium is very much appreciated.

The forms are available at <http://www.cenic.org/dcp/index.htm>

Hold the Date for CENIC 2004

CENIC's annual conference will be held on March 15-17, 2004 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey. More information about the conference will be in future editions of CENIC Today.

National Networking News

California Budget Eliminates Funding for Lead S&T Agency

In signing his state's fiscal year 2003-04 budget on August 2, California Governor Gray Davis shaved General Fund expenditures by \$7 billion in an effort to address a \$38.2 billion budget shortfall. Among those cuts was funding for the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency (TTCA), the state's principal catalyst for innovation, investment and economic opportunity.

The elimination of TTCA means California will be without its lead technology-based economic development organization, the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation. Since 1999, TTCA has awarded 246 grants totaling more than \$72 million through programs such as the California Technology Investment Partnership (CALTIP). The total number of jobs estimated to have been created and maintained by the agency equals about 18,900.

The cuts to California's General Fund expenditures over 2002-2003 marks the fourth time in 50 years that such spending has been reduced as compared to the previous year. More information on TTCA is available at: http://commerce.ca.gov/state/ttca/ttca_homepage.jsp

Source: SSTI Weekly Digest

NSF's Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems Invites Proposals

NSF's Division of Civil and Mechanical Systems invites proposals for earthquake engineering research that utilizes the experimental resources of the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES). NEES is a national shared-use and geographically-distributed experimental laboratory for advancing understanding and improving the seismic design and performance of the nation's constructed civil and mechanical infrastructure. Approximately \$9 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 10-20 awards. Individual awards may range from \$150,000 to \$4 million per year for up to 3-5 years, depending on the proposal submitted. Colleges and universities and nonprofit, non-academic organizations located in the U.S. may submit proposals as the lead organization. Optional letters of intent are due December 8, 2003. Proposals are due January 22, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf03589>

Internet2 K20 Initiative Update - Announcing the "Soft" Launch myK20

myK20 is your personal window into Internet2's K-20 Initiative. With myK20 you can:

- 1) Develop and maintain your personal profile, including a description of your interests.
- 2) Find others with similar interests across the broad K-20 community.
- 3) Search for K-20 projects that meet your criteria.
- 4) Add a project description of your own to help others discover and participate in your project.
- 5) Coming Soon! You will soon be able to create customized snapshots of Internet2 connectivity by state, institution type (public libraries, K-12schools, museums, etc.), and date. For more information see: <http://k20.internet2.edu/index.php>

Source: Internet2

Colleges Investigate Legal File Sharing

Members of the Joint Committee of the Higher Education and Entertainment Communities are working to identify ways to reduce the illegal sharing of copyrighted files on college campuses, including one proposal to provide students with legal access to online music. According to Graham Spanier, president of Pennsylvania State University and co-chair of the committee, the service would work similarly to cable television in dorm rooms. Spanier said about a dozen institutions are considering testing such a program. The committee will not endorse specific solutions to the problem of illegal file sharing but hopes to collect educational, technological, and policy resources that parties from both the higher education and entertainment communities can use to work toward joint solutions. The other co-chair of the committee, Cary Sherman of the Recording Industry Association of America, said "collaborative solutions are the best approach" because university administrators and entertainment executives "are in this boat together."

Source: Internet News
<http://dc.internet.com/news/article.php/3071331>

Quality of Online Courses Expected to Eclipse In-class Courses

A survey conducted by Babson College and the Sloan Consortium indicates growing respect among some college administrators—including presidents and chief academic officers—for the quality of online courses. One-third of the roughly 1,000 survey respondents expect the quality of online courses at their institutions to surpass that of in-class courses within three years. Fifty-seven percent said the quality of Web-based classes already rivals that of in-class teaching. Some

administrators, however, particularly at private baccalaureate institutions, remain skeptical of online teaching. One-third of the respondents said Web-based courses would not become a significant part of the teaching at their institutions.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education, 4 September 2003 (subscription required)
<http://chronicle.com/prm/daily/2003/09/2003090401t.htm>

Quilt Program Plan for July 2003 - June 2004

The Annual Project Plan for the Quilt outlines the accomplishments for the past year as well as the goals for the projects and interest groups for the coming year. The overriding mission of the Quilt is to provide a forum for communication and coordination amongst the national regional network aggregators often referred to as Gigapops. The Quilt participants fulfill this mission through a number of projects and interest groups.

In the coming year, the Quilt plans to continue many of the core projects, such as the CIS, Peering Initiative and Network Facilities project. Additional project and interest groups, such as the Vendor Information Exchange and the Regional Fiber Project, will become more active, in keeping with the overriding interests of the Quilt's participants. The Quilt will also be engaging in a Strategic Planning process, revisiting its overall mission, goals and vision and charting a course for the future.

Source: http://www.thequilt.net/private/quilt_ucaid.php

NSF Awards Extend Middleware Development Efforts in Testing, Portals and Instrumentation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$9 million to support 20 projects as part of its ongoing NSF Middleware Initiative (NMI). The projects extend NMI's efforts to develop and distribute production-quality open-source and open-standards middleware and include awards that focus on experimental applications of new middleware capabilities

Several of the awards continue and expand NMI's existing activities by the Grid Research Integration Deployment and Support (GRIDS) Center, led by Randal Butler at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) and Carl Kesselman at the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute (ISI), and the Enterprise and Desktop Integration Technologies (EDIT) Consortium, led by Ken Klingenstein at Internet2. These NMI teams are developing, deploying and supporting an integrated national middleware infrastructure for science and engineering applications. A new award to Miron Livny at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, expands middleware testing efforts previously supported through earlier GRIDS Center awards.

The EDIT Consortium is led by Internet2, EDUCAUSE and the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA). The GRIDS Center is a partnership of the University of Chicago, ISI, NCSA at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) at the University of California, San Diego, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Ian Foster at the University of Chicago is the overall director of GRIDS. In addition to NSF's support, the GRIDS software developers are funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and NASA.

Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/news/03/pr0399.htm>

IT Spending Decline Raises Concerns

IT spending in the United States took an unexpected dip in August, raising concern among analysts who had seen demand moving upward.

"We're still optimistic that we'll see continued growth in IT spending in 2004, but obviously, things like this make us look more carefully at the next batch of data coming in," Gartner analyst Martin Reynolds said. "The message is that the IT recovery isn't here yet."

The performance of the overall economy over the rest of the year will be the driving force behind IT spending next year. "Companies need to have confidence that their businesses are going to grow in 2004 in order for them to invest in technology," Reynolds said.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=14706784>

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at <http://www.cenic.org>.

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Website questions: webmaster@cenic.org

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