PUBLICATIONS

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Welcome to CENIC Today, the monthly newsletter of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California.

HOLD THE DATE: CENIC 2004, CENIC's annual conference, is scheduled for March 15-17, 2004 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey. More information will be available soon.

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CENIC News

President's Message

THE NEW CALREN backbone is up and operational!!!!

After months of hard work by: campus network staff across the state; Cisco Professional Services personnel; Level 3 personnel; and, the new/old CENIC team the new multi-tiered CalREN is live and functioning. Hopefully, researchers, students, faculty, and staff at the research universities did not notice the shift.

Currently the circuits serving the CSU campuses, the community colleges and K-12 schools are transitioning from the 4CNet backbone to the new CalREN backbone. While we hail the coming of the new infrastructure, we say farewell to 4CNet, which has served CSU for two decades, the community colleges for nearly a decade and the K-12 for the past three years.

For years 4CNet was a pioneer in educational networking. It laid the foundation for CENIC to be able to bring the entire education and research community to our new multi-tiered CalREN environment.

Source: Tom West, CENIC

CalREN Optical Network Deployment Update

With the new CalREN-DC network in operation, CENIC has begun the migration of tail circuits from the current 4CNet backbone to CalREN-DC. The immediate focus is on the Community Colleges and the DCP K-12 node sites; a majority of the CSU campuses will connect via their

existing SONET rings until the prepaid SBC contract runs out next year. Except in cases where coincident campus bandwidth upgrades (to DS3) necessitates SBC construction, CENIC believes that this migration can be largely completed by January, 2004.

Source: Greg Scott, CENIC

DCP Update

On Friday, October 24th, the new Digital California Online Resources web site debuts at http://www.digitalcalifornia.net. Making his premier appearance on the new site is State Superintendent Jack O'Connell in a web video highlighting important education reforms that recently have been implemented in California as well as the benchmarks that tell how well they are working. Superintendent O'Connell shares his vision for the future and offers perspective on the challenges ahead for K-12. Sacramento County Office of Education hosted the event in the COE's new state-of-the-art facility.

The Digital California site is designed to provide easy access to quality K-12 online teaching and learning resources. DCP is soliciting suggestions for additional resources from higher education faculty, curriculum and education technology professionals, and many others. If you have any exciting online resources for consideration, please go to the web site and submit your suggestions.

SB 720, authored by Senator Debra Bowen (D-Marina del Rey) was signed by Governor Davis and chaptered in late September. The measure, endorsed by DCP, will authorize the California Public Utilities Commission's California Teleconnect Fund to provide up to $3 million for schools, libraries, and other community organizations to help pay for costs of establishing high speed connections to either the commercial internet or to CalREN. SB 720 is an effort to help those school districts currently not connected to CENIC's CalREN network. We hope these monies will enable virtually every school site in the state to finally be connected at T-1 or faster. How SB 720 will be implemented and regulations regarding how the application process will work for districts interested in pursuing the funds is next on the agenda for next discussions between DCP and the CPUC.

The next meeting of DCP's Program Steering Committee will be held November 12th in Sacramento. The committee will discuss recommendations for DCP activities in the 2003-04 year and approaches for securing adequate funding to maintain service at the current levels. Recommendations from the Planning Committee suggest a continued emphasis in the next year on connectivity, content, capability and collaboration, and a new emphasis on research.

The current year cuts in the DCP budget amounted to a reduction of $6.6 million dollars. This cut on top of the decrease in the previous year leaves DCP with an annual operating budget for 2003-04 of $14.3 million dollars. This amount, down from $32 million in 2000-01, is not sufficient to operate the network. For the current year, one time measures are being taken to continue operation. However, in the 2004-2005 fiscal year additional funding will be required. DCP staff is working to identify other funds to backfill the shortfall between the $14.3 million and the amount necessary to operate the network. Future reports will update readers on the status of funding for DCP.

Source: Jim Dolgonas, CENIC

CALVIP Project Moves Video Over Internet for California Community Colleges

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is now working with 4CNet and CENIC to move video conferencing from its current T1 network backbone to a Video over Internet Protocol. The California Video over Internet Protocol (CalVIP) Project will utilize the newly upgraded DS3 connections so that data and video can be accessed over the same network. This will allow the available bandwidth to be used more efficiently, saving the colleges money when their need for bandwidth increases.

The California State University and CENIC have worked together to form a joint steering committee to address the issues of implementing Video over IP on the CSU and CENIC networks. Membership of the CalVIP steering committee is drawn from the California State University, the University of California, the California Community Colleges, the K-12 community, the Independent CENIC universities and the staff of 4CNet and CalREN-2.

The immediate goal of the CalVIP steering committee will be to support the current environment for existing rooms and technology participating in statewide video conferencing while integrating Video over IP. The network has grown from 123 original sites to 130 today. Each site was originally allocated $25,000 to purchase the recommended video conferencing equipment. Initially video conferencing was accomplished over ISDN telephone lines. In 1998-2000, the Chancellor's Office worked with the 4CNet staff to move video conferencing from ISDN to the 4CNet T1 video backbone.

The CalVIP steering committee's first goal is to continue support of this existing video conferencing network while integrating Video over IP. The next goal is to establish standards and specifications for converting systems to the new H.323 environment as it fully matures.

With CENIC's optical CalREN creating a common network backbone for K-20 education in California, there is a need for current video conferencing systems to be converted to H.323. The older systems use fixed bandwidth ATM, which will no longer be supported on the CalREN network.

In 2003, the CCC Chancellor's Office gave each of the California Community Colleges another $ 25,000 to upgrade their video equipment for compatibility with the CalREN network. This funding supports the move from older equipment to the equipment needed to utilize the emerging H.323 technology, which uses bandwidth more efficiently.

In the CCC and CSU systems, use of video conferencing for instructional purposes, student services, and administrative uses continues to grow. As this tool is used by more and more, the CalVIP project and the work of the steering committee will have a wide impact on the way that California educators teach, conduct business, and communicate.

The October Issue of CCC TechEDge showcases CENIC and the CalREN Network, the CALVIP Project, and other information pertinent to technology in the California Community Colleges. A PDF of the October Issue is available at http://www.ccctechedge.com, or contact the editor at editor@ ccctechedge.com to request a copy.

Source: Sandoval Chagoya, California Community Colleges Technology Center

Gigabit or Bust™ Initiative – Building a Broadband Vision for California

Deploying advanced broadband networks is critical for California and the nation.

As detailed in our commissioned Gartner study, "One Gigabit or Bust Initiative - A Broadband Vision for California", California is on the threshold of a multibillion-dollar opportunity. A $376-billion upside in gross state product (GSP) by 2010 is possible with the implementation of a focused One Gigabit or Bust™ broadband initiative. Moreover, two million new jobs could be created. You can get the study and more info about the initiative at http://www.cenic.org/gb/index.htm.

On November 5-6, 2003, the Gigabit or Bust™ Roundtable Meeting will be held 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. Full agenda is available at http://www.cenic.org/gb/events/rt1103/agenda.htm.

At the Roundtable, 14 Task Forces on a range of subjects will be meeting. A list of current task forces and links to their charters can be found at http://www.cenic.org/gb/roundtable/index.htm.

If you are interested in helping fund Gigabit or Bust™ Initiative pilot projects and studies, you can join the Gigabit Pioneer program. More information is available at http://www.cenic.org/gb/giving/ index.htm or you can talk to John Vaille at jvaille@cenic.org.

Fall 2003 InterACT is Now Available

The Fall issue of CENIC's magazine, InterACT, is devoted to the advanced-services network applications being developed in California and. features winners from the 2003 On the Road to a Gigabit awards. The online PDF version is available at http://www.cenic.org/InterAct/interactvol4.pdf and hardcopies should be in your mailbox within 2-3 weeks.

Enter the 2004 On the Road to a Gigabit Awards

Don't forget to enter the On the Road to a Gigabit award program. Entries can be made at http:// www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2004/winners.htm. The deadline is December 5, 2003.

National Networking News

Parents Sue District Alleging Wireless Health Risk

In what experts believe is the first suit of its kind, some Illinois parents have filed a class-action lawsuit against their local school district over the harmful effects allegedly caused by the district's wireless network.

In the suit, the parents claim that Oak Park Elementary School District 97 installed a wireless local area network in classrooms despite what they call "a substantial body of evidence" that finds exposure to high-frequency electromagnetic radiation is especially harmful to children.

Source: eSchool News, http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/Alertunreg.cfm?ArticleID=4712&ul=% 2Fnews%2FshowStory%2Ecfm%3FArticleID%3D4712

Internet2 makes Abilene Observatory Research Data Available to Global Computer Science Community

Internet2® announced that research data, collected during the past two years by the Abilene Observatory project, is now available for use by the greater, global computer science community.

Already providing support for network researchers at its member universities, Internet2 invites computer researchers to access the data freely and to make recommendations on other types of network performance data that might be collected by the Observatory.

For more information, visit: http://abilene.internet2.edu/observatory/.

Source: I2-News

Internet Performance Smashed in Internet2 Land Speed Record Competition

An international team has set a new Internet2(R) Land Speed Record by transferring 1.1 terabytes of data across more than 7,000 kilometers (nearly 4,300 miles) of network in less than 30 minutes, representing an average rate of more than 5.44 gigabits per second, more than 20,000 times faster than a typical home broadband connection.

The mark of 38,420.54 terabit-meters per second was set by a team consisting of members from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and CERN.

The Internet2 Land Speed Record is an open and ongoing competition. Details of the winning entries, complete rules, submission guidelines and additional details are available at: http://lsr.internet2.edu/.

Source: I2-News

New Digital Divide Fund Signed into Law

Governor Davis has signed AB 855 (Firebaugh and Levine) which mandates that 15% of the revenues generated from new leases for wireless telecommunication facilities (e.g., cell towers on state property) will be set aside to create a Digital Divide Fund. This fund will be administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to provide grants to community-based nonprofit organizations for projects such as technology training, developing local community content, harnessing technology for e-government services, and preparing youth for opportunities in the technology-based new economy.

For the complete text of the bill, go to http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_855&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen

Source: The California Community Technology Policy Group (CCTPG)

Federal Ed-tech Funding in Trouble for 2004

Four technology-specific initiatives totaling $134 million are among the many education programs still at risk as House and Senate lawmakers try to resolve their differences over 2004 spending.

Three of these four programs were preserved in the Senate's version of the education spending bill but were cut in the House version, which more closely follows President Bush's 2004 budget request.

Source: eSchool News, http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/Alertunreg.cfm?ArticleID=4707&ul=%2Fnews%2FshowStory%2Ecfm%3FArticleID%3D4707

NSF Announces Awards to Extend Reach of Terascale Facility

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced $10 million in awards to Indiana and Purdue universities, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and The University of Texas to enhance the capabilities of NSF's Extensible Terascale Facility (ETF) with not only computing resources, but also scientific instruments and data collections. Through the new awards, the ETF will put neutron-scattering instruments and other unique resources online for the nation's research and education community.

Source: GRIDtoday, http://www.gridtoday.com/03/1006/102052.html

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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