



LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


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CENIC News

President's Message

By the middle of December the last two unconnected counties--Del Norte and Humboldt--will be connected to CalREN-DC as part of the Digital California Project (DCP) reaching all the schools in the State. Those close to the effort will recall the challenges and obstacles we encountered while searching for needed capacity. As part of a commitment to serve education in these two communities, CENIC asked SAIC to conduct a study of the county's overall needs (i.e., education, health services, economic development, individual) and the best potential technical solutions. In addition to providing critical aid to the DCP, the results of that study provided a fertile seed for a new regional project under our Gigabit or Bust Initiative.

The Gigabit or Bust Initiative was officially launched earlier this month at an enthusiastically received two day workshop in Sacramento. Nearly 100 people representing a wide range of private enterprise, health services, entertainment, local and state government, regulatory bodies, community-based organizations, education and others participated. These volunteers will tackle a number of critical issues as part of nearly a dozen task forces.

I highlight these two activities to illustrate the inherent relationship between CENIC's mission and the goals of the Gigabit or Bust Initiative. It is often through the process of serving the research and education community with advanced networking services that the larger goal of reaching every business, medical facility and home with sufficient network capacity can be successfully met. And thus again, the even greater goals of spurring economic development throughout California and improving the quality of services to all citizens--via e-learning, e-health services, e-commerce, or e-entertainment--can be achieved.

CENIC is only one partner in the Gigabit or Bust Initiative. We invite others to join us in this exciting opportunity.

Source: Tom West, CENIC

CalREN Optical Network Deployment Update

As reported last month the CalREN-DC backbone network, including all CalREN-2 sites' dual connections to the backbone, initiated production operation last month. And with this migration, all the SBC OC-48c SONET rings upon which the CalREN 2 network operated and associated tail circuits have "gone dark" after five years of operation.

The termination of services over the SONET rings has allowed the CENIC NOC to focus on redeploying routers and other equipment to support a complete CalREN-HPR network build-out. The goal is deploy the CalREN-HPR network as a second set of network services over the CalREN-DC fiber-optic infrastructure. While some campuses have CalREN-HPR capabilities now, the full roll-out of the HPR network is expected to continue through the balance of 2003.

Work is also proceeding to complete the migration of all CSU, CCC and K12 sites to the new CalREN DC network. About half of the 23 channelized OC-12 OCN services for use in the CENIC backbone hub sites have been tested and accepted. We're hopeful that all circuits will be installed and have been tested by the end of January, but some circuit installations may not occur until February. The CENIC NOC has begun testing rider circuits and several of the Community College circuits have been tested and as of the date of this article one community college has already been cutover to use of the new DC network. CENIC has asked the circuit providers to focus on installing all circuits into the Central Valley hub sites as part of a plan to turn down and decommission that portion of the 4CNet backbone by year's end. The circuit migration schedule is posted at <http://www.cenic.org/downloads/pmo> and will be updated as due dates are provided and sites become operational on the CalREN-DC network.

Source: Greg Scott & Edwin Smith, CENIC

CENIC Network Support for Supercomputing 2003

Although this year's annual Supercomputing conference (November 16-20) was held in Phoenix, Arizona, it was the capacity, robust design and high-bandwidth capability of CENIC's new CalREN backbone that provided the conference with support. In cooperation with two of CENIC's key partners--Cisco and Level 3--10 Gps connections were extended from the CalREN Los Angeles node site to Phoenix for the show. 10 Gig waves originating at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center were extended to Los Angeles over the CalREN backbone. In addition, the TeraGrid router in CENIC's Los Angeles node site served as the aggregation point for a 10 Gig connection from various Extended Terascale Facility member sites to Phoenix; a third 10 Gig path to Phoenix was "filled" by Caltech researchers from their space in the same facility.

Source: Greg Scott, CENIC

CENIC 2004 – Lighting a Path for Your Imagination

CENIC's 8th annual conference will be held on March 15-17, 2004 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey, California. It's a great event to learn about new technologies, new networking applications and meet with your colleagues in a relaxed environment. Reserve the dates now.

Check out <http://www.cenic.org/events/cenic2004/agenda.htm> for agenda and registration information.

On the Road to a Gigabit Awards Entry Deadline December 5th

The 2004 On the Road to a Gigabit Awards, cosponsored by CENIC and CalIT(2), recognizes the California visionaries who are applying network technology in innovative ways to encourage the development and implementation of a ubiquitous gigabit state-wide network by 2010.

For more information or to submit an entry, go to <http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2004/winners.htm>.

National Networking News

Riordan to be Education Secretary

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has named former Los Angeles mayor and gubernatorial candidate Richard Riordan as his secretary for Child Development and Education. Riordan was considered a leading candidate as a member of the governor's transition team.

The governor's agenda is very much aligned with the mission and goals of school board members, said CSBA President Jeannine Martineau, also a member of Schwarzenegger's transition team.

"Mr. Riordan shares that commitment to citizen control of local school boards," she said. "His consistent advocacy for public education will help stabilize the transition for the children of California as Governor Schwarzenegger takes office."

Source: California School News, <http://www.csba.org/csn/nov03/riordan.htm>

Students Aren't Using Info Technology Responsibly

Results from the 2003 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) suggest that many U.S. college students may be routinely misusing technology resources in their studies. The current results are from the fourth edition of the survey, which is designed to provide campuses with information about the effectiveness of specific policies and practices. For 2003, the study found that while 83 percent of students regularly use information technology, 87 percent believe that fellow students at least occasionally copy material found on the Internet and put it in their own work without attribution. George Kuh, professor at Indiana University and director of the NSSE project, said, "Technology could well be a double-edged sword." Although it may allow students to "produce more in less time," he said, it remains to be seen "whether students are learning with authentic understanding."

Source: USA Today, 9 November 2003, http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2003-11-09-students-it_x.htm

Security, Assessment Highlight Technology + Learning Conference

Reeling from budget shortfalls from coast to coast and desperate for solutions that promise to save money while helping schools meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), education stakeholders arrived at the National School Boards Association's annual Technology + Learning conference short on money and long on skepticism.

Though the challenge of funding remained a popular topic in the hallways, over dinner, and throughout the exhibit hall, attendees for the most part did more than complain about their troubles. Instead, many turned their frustrations into action by touching off conversations about the importance of technology in the classroom and by weighing alternative sources of funding, including the use of public-private partnerships, to help prepare their students for life and work in the 21st century.

Source: eSchool News, <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/Alertunreg.cfm?ArticleID=4735&ul=%2Fnews%2FshowStory%2Ecfm%3FArticleID%3D4735>

Internet2 Multicast Hands-on Workshop

Over the course of this workshop, scheduled for December 2-4, 2003, students will design and set up a set of inter-connected multicast networks. The workshop will consist of a set of hands on exercises for small network teams. The workshop will be limited to 20 participants and those participants will be divided into four teams. Each team will have a mix of 3 types of router and over the course of the workshop teams will configure their own network, interconnect with the other teams, and then attach to the Internet2-connected network.

For more information, go to: <http://events.internet2.edu/2003/Multicast/Multicast12-03/Index.html>

Announcing the 2003-2004 "Connections for Tomorrow" (C4T) California Grants Program

Application deadline: December 17, 2003

The 2003-2004 C4T California Grants Program will provide grants consisting of a cash award, technical assistance, and substantial in-kind support to start-up, expand, and improve community technology programs at organizations that serve at-risk youth or homeless populations. The services provided through the California Grants Program will facilitate each program's ability to better provide community technology-based services. Small and medium-sized community and faith-based organizations are eligible and encouraged to apply for this opportunity.

A community technology center or program is a community service, social action, and/or educational facility utilizing computers, the Internet and other information technology tools to provide a range of vital services, including health and social services, basic education, lifelong learning, workforce training, cultural enrichment, community media production, and computer recycling. For more information please refer to: <http://www2.ctcnet.org/c4t/grants/default.asp>.

Source: California Community Technology Policy Group, <http://www.cctpg.org>.

NLR Announces Lighting First Path of a National Footprint – Chicago to Pittsburgh

November 18, 2003 -- National LambdaRail, Inc. (NLR), a consortium of leading U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies, today announced that it successfully lit the initial segment on its national footprint between Chicago and Pittsburgh – connecting the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) to the Extensible Terascale Facility (ETF), the backplane network for the National Science Foundation's Teragrid project, through the StarLight Facility in Chicago.

Source: I2-News, <http://archives.internet2.edu/guest/archives/I2-NEWS/log200311/msg00003.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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Keep track of the Digital California Project and the One Gigabit or Bust Initiative by visiting the CENIC publications page or by subscribing directly to the publications. Visit <http://www.cenic.org/pubs/> for more information.

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