



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


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

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#### CENIC News

##### CalREN Optical Network Deployment Update

The migration of all the remaining 4CNet and DCP data circuits to the CalREN fiber backbone continues to make good progress. All the seven remaining California State University (CSU) campuses are scheduled to have their data connections migrated to the CalREN-DC network by the end of May, with dependence on new campus equipment in one case and on design by Verizon in another. All the circuits to Digital California Project (DCP) node sites should also be migrated by the end of May, although some clean-up work and replacement circuits will likely need to be installed during the late Spring and Summer months of this year. Migration of some Community College circuits is being delayed due to carrier schedules in providing new circuits. Most delays are the result of the colleges being in rural areas where service providers have limited infrastructure and facilities for high speed circuits. In these cases, carrier infrastructure upgrades must occur before circuits are provided to CENIC. In some cases, there are special construction projects required by carriers to deliver high speed data circuits to colleges.

We are certainly getting close to having all sites using the new CalREN fiber backbone network for data services. We will provide future reports until all migrations are completed.

Source: Edwin Smith, CENIC

##### SCOE Launches New Internet and Media Services Web Site

Sacramento County Office of Education's (SCOE) Internet and Media Services Department has just launched its new Web site. In addition to describing the resources and capabilities of the department, the site has informative sections on Webcasts, videoconferences, Web sites, online databases, video production, streaming and satellite reception. You'll find both simple and detailed explanations, samples, and guidance for making plans and decisions for using today's digital technologies.

Because SCOE is a node site for the CENIC's Digital California Project, it is not surprising that the site also showcases the use of high-speed Internet with streaming videos and sophisticated Flash animation. You'll find SCOE's Internet and Media Services site at [www.scoe.net/ims](http://www.scoe.net/ims).

Source: John Fleischman, Sacramento County Office of Education

### **Hold the Date – One Gigabit or Bust Roundtable Meeting Set for July**

The third meeting of the One Gigabit or Bust Roundtable is scheduled on July 21 and 22 at the Hilton Oakland Airport. The Roundtable is organized around topical task forces discussing everything from rural issues to broadband policies needed in California.

Task forces are open to all participants and create an open, engaging discussion environment – one that encourages the variety of perspectives needed to come up with a realistic action plan for deploying gigabit broadband to every California business, educational institution and home by 2010.

Agenda and registration information will be available on the web in mid-May. For more information about the One Gigabit or Bust Initiative, go to <http://www.cenic.org/GB/index.html>

### **CalVIP Has a New Name**

CalVIP is now known as CalREN Video Services (CVS) to better reflect the service. To find out more information about CVS, go to <http://www.cenic.net/calvip/>

### **National Networking News**

#### **eRate Players Clash Over High-Stakes Issues**

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prepares to make key changes to the eRate--such as increasing the minimum amount the neediest applicants are required to contribute, and possibly eliminating the Form 470 used to seek competitive bids--stakeholders in the \$2.25 billion-a-year federal program remain sharply divided as to what these changes should entail.

About 45 applicants, consultants, and vendors responded to the FCC's "Third Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" by the March deadline. The notice continued the agency's effort to explore ways of improving the program's application process and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse.

Source: eSchoolNews, <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5000>

#### **The Web and Wireless Provide New Tools for Assessing Student Learning**

Midterms and finals are the most common ways in which students in large lecture courses are assessed. In many courses, this level of assessment is adequate to judge students' ability and comprehension of material. But in other courses, particularly large introductory science courses, in which concepts often build cumulatively throughout the term and a lot of new material is covered, students are in danger of falling behind between exams and never being able to catch up.

To encourage students to keep up with their coursework, instructors commonly assign homework or quizzes. However, these forms of assessment of student learning can take significant time and resources to grade and may take days or weeks to return to students.

With the web, and more recently, wireless computing, instructors have new tools at their disposal to help students keep pace with a course without creating a huge workload for instructors or their teaching assistants.

Source: UC TLtC NEWS, <http://www.ucltcc.org/news/2004/04/assess.html>

#### **Information Security Governance Report Addresses Higher Education**

[http://www.cyberpartnership.org/InfoSecGov4\\_04.pdf](http://www.cyberpartnership.org/InfoSecGov4_04.pdf)> "Information Security Governance: A Call to Action" [PDF 477 KB] is a new report that urges corporations, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions to integrate effective information security governance (ISG) programs into their organizational processes. The report details the findings and recommendations of the Corporate Governance Task Force that was created by the National Cyber Security Summit held in December 2003. The report was unveiled earlier this week by the National Cyber Security Partnership and is available from its Web site <[www.cyberpartnership.org](http://www.cyberpartnership.org)>.

Source: I2-News, <https://mail.internet2.edu/wws/arc/i2-news/2004-04/msg00003.html>

#### **Douglas Van Houweling, Internet2 President and CEO, and Internet2 Members to Participate in Broadband Summit 2004**

Internet2(R) announced that Douglas Van Houweling, Internet2 president and CEO, will be a featured keynote speaker at the Broadband Summit 2004 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center on April 20. He will speak about the future and potential of next generation broadband to transform work, education and entertainment. Highlighted activities will also include Internet2 members Microsoft and ResearchChannel demonstrations of next generation broadband Internet applications in the Broadband

Summit exhibit area. The New World Symphony, an Internet2 member pioneering in research and experimentation for music education and interactive music collaboration via high performance network connections, will give a special musical performance from Miami, Fl. over Internet2's Abilene Network.

Source: I2-News, <https://mail.internet2.edu/www/arc/i2-news/2004-04/msg00002.html>

### **Bush Pushes Broadband Rollout by 2007**

President Bush on Friday proposed 2007 as the goal for universal availability of high-speed Internet access to keep America competitive and innovative.

Speaking at length on the subject for the first time since August 2002, Bush discussed broadband while highlighting home ownership in the critical state of New Mexico -- a state he narrowly lost in the 2000 presidential election.

"We ought to have universal, affordable access to broadband technology by the year 2007," Bush said. "And then we ought to make sure as soon as possible thereafter consumers have plenty of choices."

Source: Reuters, <http://news.myway.com/top/article/id/393783|top|03-26-2004::16:49|reuters.html>

### **Here Comes Broadband John**

John Kerry doesn't claim he invented the Internet -- but he has long recognized its value. Back in the mid-'90s, he was agitating to bring high-speed data lines to rural Massachusetts and promoting tech-friendly policies in the Senate. So while he's not a full-blown geek like Al Gore, Kerry is comfortable in libertarian Silicon Valley, which he's visited 16 times in the past three years, as well as on Boston's Route 128. His message to the shrunken industry: I feel your pain.

Now, the likely Democratic Presidential nominee plans to take his pro-tech message to the national stage. In a speech scheduled for mid-April, he will unveil his plan to bolster the industry. Among the ideas he's likely to propose: a national broadband strategy to promote superfast Web connections, tax breaks for investments in startups, and more federal dollars for research that can foster lucrative commercial spin-offs. His goal: Woo techies -- and draw a sharp contrast with President George W. Bush, who many in techdom say hasn't lifted a finger to help them.

Source: Business Week Online, <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/4702153/>

### **Community Technology Centers Program**

ED invites applications for funding under the Community Technology Centers Program. These centers seek to provide disadvantaged residents of economically distressed urban and rural communities with access to information technology and related training. To be eligible, applicants must have the capacity to significantly expand access to computers and related services for the above-mentioned communities that would otherwise lack such access. Applicants may include for-profit businesses; public or private nonprofit organizations; community- or faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, state and local educational agencies including charter schools and private schools, or consortiums of such entities, institutions, or agencies. Approximately \$10 million is expected to be available for 18-25 awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for a 12-month project period. Applications are due June 1, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2004-2/041604d.html>

Source: U.S. Department of Education

### **Researchers Aim to "Democratize" Supercomputing**

An experiment held April 3 by researchers at the University of San Francisco (USF) offered a new twist to the latest trend in supercomputing: using off-the-shelf computers networked together to generate the kind of processing power capable of solving the most complex research problems.

Last fall, students at Virginia Tech proved they could create a low-cost supercomputer by wiring together off-the-shelf desktops. The twist in the USF experiment was that hundreds of participants gathered in the university gymnasium for a one-day event designed to determine whether they could spontaneously muster enough power to compare with the world's strongest machines.

Though organizers failed to break into the ranks of the world's top 500 supercomputers as they had hoped, they said the event, which they called "Flashmob I," was a success nonetheless.

Source: eSchool News, <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=4994>

### **IDC: Networking "Disruptions" Will Drive Spending**

A handful of major trends will alter network architectures and dictate how enterprises spend on networking gear going forward, according to International Data Corp.

Citing information from a recent CIO survey, Lee Doyle, group vice president of network infrastructure for the Framingham, Mass.-based analysis firm, labeled these trends as "disruptions" that will make up the key network spending drivers over the next three to 10 years. Doyle's remarks came at IDC's recent Directions 2004 industry briefing.

Doyle said that the desire to improve network security will be the biggest driver of network spending. CIOs surveyed also indicated that improving network reliability will also be a significant driver, because the process of ensuring availability becomes more complex as enterprises switch to utility computing architectures.

Source: SearchNetworking.com, [http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid7\\_gci960751,00.html](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid7_gci960751,00.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>.

### **Subscription Information**

You can subscribe and unsubscribe to CENIC Today via the web at: <http://lists.cenic.org/mailman/listinfo/cenic-today>

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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