



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

President's Message

I am pleased to welcome the University of Arizona and Arizona State University (ASU) to CENIC. Both institutions will be participating in CalREN once CENIC engineering staff completes the fiber and optronics installation to connect a new CENIC Phoenix hub site to the University of Arizona in Tucson and to ASU in Phoenix. With a target completion date of September 1, University of Arizona and ASU will connect to CENIC via a fiber route that goes from the Phoenix hub site, through Yuma and to the CENIC hub site at SDSC in San Diego. From there, University of Arizona and ASU will have high speed access to all of CENIC's CalREN backbone, including our Internet2, peering and international network connections. We look forward to the additional educational and research collaborations that CENIC's Arizona connectivity will provide.

Source: Jim Dolgonas, CENIC

NOC Report

Customer Satisfaction Survey

We've just completed the first quarter of surveying customer satisfaction through resolved tickets. To date, we've received 42 completed surveys. Here are the major findings:

- 95% of responses indicated satisfaction with the timeliness of communications on status of requests.
- 90% of responses indicated that time to resolution was either as expected or faster than expected.
- 93% of responses indicated overall satisfaction with the handling of the request.

A quarterly report will be published in the next issue of CENIC Today.

A more general customer satisfaction survey that will be sent to specific CENIC contacts statewide on a semi-annual basis is also being developed. This survey will be sent out over the summer. Please be sure to complete the short survey should you receive a request from CENIC.

CalREN Video Services (CVS)

CVS testing of software to allow video conference administrators at each CVS site to schedule video conferences themselves has been delayed due to K12 considerations regarding participation in CVS and compatibility between CVS and the K12 videoconferencing system being planned.

We still hope to provide software to "pilot" sites before the end of June, and expect to provide training over the summer of 2005. If you have any questions about the scheduling software for videoconferencing services, please contact Kelly Stack at kstack@cenic.org.

Source: Sherilyn Evans, CENIC

End-to-End Performance Initiative Workshop in June

In conjunction with Internet2's End-to-End Performance Initiative, UCLA is hosting a workshop (<http://e2epi.internet2.edu/network-perf-wk/index.html>) on end-to-end performance management over CalREN/HPR and Abilene. The meeting will be held June 29-30 at the UCLA campus and space is being made available to participants from each HPR campus.

Source: Brian Court, CENIC

Next Generation HPR Network

A working group formed of members of the HPR TAC has been working with CENIC staff to develop a design for the next generation of the HPR network. The first tentative design was presented to the full HPR TAC at its meeting at UCSB the week of May 23. Based on feedback received, the design will be modified and discussed at the next HPR TAC meeting.

Source: Brian Court, CENIC

National Networking News

New Solution for Video: A Client-Free Player

A Libertyville, Ill. company known as Video Furnace has developed a solution for distributing video over an internet-protocol (IP) network that eliminates the need for a desktop media player.

The Video Furnace solution streams TV-quality MPEG video to users' desktops without the need for a pre-installed player, such as QuickTime, RealPlayer, or Windows Media Player. Instead, Video Furnace delivers a small, 200-kilobyte player of its own once a video stream is requested. This player appears on the user's desktop and then disappears when the user closes his or her viewing window.

Because the solution works with any Windows, Macintosh, or even Linux-based computer, it eliminates the media player management and compatibility headaches that school IT staff now frequently deal with, Video Furnace says. It also gives each user on the network the same uniform viewing experience, regardless of his or her client machine.

Source: eSchool News, <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5669>

Broadband Crawling Its Way to Exurbs

Thousands of people on the exurban periphery of the Washington region -- just an hour from the nation's capital and one of the country's hottest technology centers -- have Internet access so slow that it is often nonfunctional. The telephone and cable companies wiring most of the region to the Internet have yet to come to these rural outposts, and some suspect that they never will.

So some far-out communities are taking matters into their own hands. Loudoun County just appointed a broadband czar to bring high-speed Internet to the most far-flung reaches of the county. In Southern Maryland, a regional group has commissioned a feasibility study to explore the same goal.

In the meantime, a local utility, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, is launching one of the first pilot projects in the country to determine how affordably high-speed Internet can be carried over power lines in rural areas. Broadband over power lines, a technology that makes connecting to the Internet possible with an electric outlet, already is deployed in more densely populated areas, including Manassas and Potomac.

Source: Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/22/AR2005052200765.html>

SDSC and Calit2 Open Synthesis Center

The San Diego Supercomputer Center and the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology, both at UCSD, today announced the opening of the SDSC/Calit2 Synthesis Center. Located on the first floor of the SDSC building, the center's tools and user services are designed to bring together scientists from different disciplines with information technology experts, offering users access to the existing and new cyberinfrastructure tools needed to solve multidisciplinary and multi-science problems in a collaborative way.

Users can utilize the Synthesis Center in three different ways: setting up experiments, running experiments, and analyzing results. During the preparation phase, users reserve the center for activities such as

examining, understanding and cleaning databases in preparation for the experimental phase. Once the databases have been assembled and the tools are ready, researchers can use the Synthesis Center to perform computational 'runs'. These runs can take hours, days or even weeks. Lastly, users can use the Synthesis Center to review, evaluate and store the massive amount of data typically generated with each run. In addition, visualization services are available on an on-demand basis.

Source: This Week @ UCSD, <http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/general/SynthesisCenter.asp>

Library of Congress Joins Internet2

Internet2, the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium led by the research and higher education community, today, May 17, announced that the Library of Congress has become a member of Internet2 and will connect to its high-performance Abilene Network. The Library plans to collaborate with the Internet2 community and leverage its advanced network infrastructure to facilitate wide-scale digital preservation projects, to enhance the development of an Internet-based database of U.S. newspapers, and to assist with its educational outreach programs.

"The Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to Congress and the American people, and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations," said Laura E. Campbell, associate librarian for Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress. Campbell is leading the Library's National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. This national initiative is dedicated to working with other institutions to collect and preserve the digital heritage of the nation. "The Internet2 community has deployed advanced technical capabilities that will enable enhanced digital preservation and distribution of our country's most precious information," she added.

Source: I2-News, <https://mail.internet2.edu/wws/arc/i2-news/2005-05/msg00004.html>

FirstMile.US Formed. Goes to Bat for Big Broadband in the U.S

FirstMile.US, a California-based non-profit, was officially launched May 5, 2005 at the Redwood Coast Rural Action meeting. Its goal: Big Broadband Everywhere. Its method: educating, advocating and focusing the national debate on the power and promise of big broadband until the FirstMile.US vision—that every member of the American public has access to affordable, big broadband—is achieved.

In 21st century America, digital infrastructure is as relevant to economic vitality and personal well-being as electricity and water utilities. From rural communities like California's Redwood coast to metropolitan centers like Philadelphia, access to big broadband forms the lynchpin of a strong industrial base and the creation of solid, high-paying jobs.

Source: I2-News, <https://mail.internet2.edu/wws/arc/i2-news/2005-05/msg00003.html>

House OKs Tougher Spyware Penalties

The House Monday, May 23, voted to establish new penalties for purveyors of Internet "spyware" that disables users' computers and secretly monitors their activities.

By overwhelming majorities, the House passed two bills that stiffen jail sentences and establish multimillion-dollar fines for those who use secret surveillance programs to steal credit-card numbers, sell software or commit other crimes.

Source: MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7958038/>

Tomorrow's Net Speeds could be up to 1,600% Faster

If you think that today's high-speed Internet connections are fast, wait till you see what cable operators plan.

The industry's standard-settings unit, CableLabs, plans to endorse this month technology that will let operators boost speeds 400% to 1,600%, over their existing lines.

Motorola and Cisco are among the companies offering alternative methods to increase broadband speeds by linking together the bandwidth used for four or more conventional TV channels.

What would the faster speed bring?

"The sky's the limit," says CableLabs CEO Dick Green. "There are a lot of high-data-rate services lurking out there — including a lot that we haven't even thought of."

Source: USA Today, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-04-05-speed-usat_x.htm

Internet's Bad Boy Grows Up

Five years ago this month, as a 24-year-old Web designer, Philip J. Kaplan created what quickly became the Internet industry's wailing wall, a site that used leaked information and ruthless commentary to chronicle the disintegration of hundreds of Internet companies.

To laid-off workers, he was a hero. To employers, he was a curse.

Now, instead of tearing down companies, Kaplan — at 29 — is building one of his own.

He persuaded Sequoia Capital, the blue-chip Silicon Valley venture capital firm that backed such companies as Google Inc. and Apple Computer Inc., to invest \$4 million in his method of placing ads on websites. He moved from New York City to San Francisco with dreams of turning AdBrite into the next billion-dollar company.

Source: LA Times, <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-kaplan24may24.story>

UCSD Researchers Test Wireless Technologies in Simulated Medical Disaster Response Drill

As 200 passengers waited to board their vessel at San Diego's Cruise Ship Terminal, two terrorists opened fire and took hostages. Law enforcement was quickly alerted, but the terrorists detonated an explosive device that released a hazardous agent. That hypothetical scenario kicked off a full-dress disaster drill on May 12 organized by San Diego's Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST). The simulation brought together police, SWAT, fire, HazMat and other first responders as well as a contingent of more than a dozen scientists and engineers from the University of California, San Diego and the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2).

"MMST brings these cross-agency groups together to see how they work, and what we are trying to do is make those processes work more seamlessly," said Ramesh Rao, Calit2's division director at UCSD and co-principal investigator on a two-year-old project called WIISARD (Wireless Internet Information System for Medical Response in Disasters). "From the Calit2 perspective, it's an opportunity for WIISARD to incorporate new technologies in a live drill that brings together real first responders from the community."

Source: UCSD Press Release, http://www.jacobsschool.ucsd.edu/news_events/releases/release.sfe?id=384

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>

Website questions: webmaster@cenic.org
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