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CENIC News

President's Message: The Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act

There has been some attention this year on various Federal telecommunications legislation or legislation or regulations affecting telecommunication, such as CALEA. Less in the spotlight, however, have been various bills in the State legislature that affect telecommunications in California. Among them is the Nuñez bill, AB 2987. It was one of many bills sent to the Governor at the end of the legislative session this week.

AB 2987 (Nuñez), or the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006, makes major changes to the way in which entities are granted authority to provide video services to local communities. Under current law, franchises and related .fees. or .public access provisions. are determined at the local level. This bill establishes a procedure for the issuance of state, instead of local, franchises for the provision of video service, which would be defined to include cable service and open-video systems, that would be administered by the Public Utilities Commission. The commission would be the sole franchising authority for state franchises to provide video services. The bill would require any person or corporation that seeks to provide video service in California to file an application with the commission for a state franchise with specified information. The bill would provide that cities, counties, cities and counties, or joint powers authorities would receive state franchise fees for video services provided within their jurisdictions, based on gross revenues and pursuant to a specified formula. The bill would also authorize local entities to establish a fee to support the capital costs of public, educational, and governmental access (PEG) channel facilities, in the amount of either 1% of gross revenues or a preexisting fee, whichever is lower.

This bill was intended, I believe, to increase competition in providing cable and video services. Certainly, the bill is a big help for telecommunications companies who have found it difficult to deal with many local jurisdictions. This will definitely have the affect of increasing competition. At the same time, local franchisees will also now receive State franchises, making it easier for them to compete across the State. Furthermore, the funds to be set aside for PEG channels are significant as well. How this bill will ultimately affect what is delivered and at what costs is yet to be seen. However, as we look back a few years from now, I believe this bill will be seen as having a major effect on the changing telecommunications landscape.

-- Jim Dolgonas, CENIC

CENIC Partners with Ruckus to Bring Digital Media to California Colleges and Universities

With the importance of digital media in the lives of California's students (as well as faculty and staff) one of the most important advantages of broadband networking is the relative ease with which one can download

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large media files which can be used to supplement coursework and to enhance distance learning. CENIC is delighted that the CalREN community will soon be able to take advantage of the rich world of digital media thanks to a new partnership with Ruckus, the premier digital entertainment service for universities. Ruckus offers:

- National, local, and campus based programming,
- 1.5 million licensed tracks of music from major labels and indies,
- Hollywood blockbusters, cult classics, and independent films,
- Robust community features that allow students with similar music, video and programming interests to connect, share and explore on their campus, and
- A comprehensive set of services and support that make Ruckus a strong partner in building a digital network and strengthening your campus community.

Based in Herndon, Virginia, Ruckus is backed by Battery Ventures and Shelter Capital Partners which are leading technology investment firms that invest in businesses at all stages of growth with a focus on high-value contributions to companies that have the potential to become industry leaders.

We anticipate a large demand for this service, and are excited about our partnership as well as the ways in which it can be used to enhance the student experience in California and student life on participating campuses.

-- *Stephanie Couch, CENIC*

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute Connect to CalREN-DC

On August 28, The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) announced that both the California State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) were connected to the Digital California tier of the California Research & Education Network (CalREN-DC). The two research institutions are linked to the CalREN-DC node in Soledad, CA at Gigabit speeds via AT&T's GigaMAN (Ethernet private line) service. CENIC contracts with AT&T to provide similar connectivity to many research and education entities throughout California.

As two of the premiere marine research institutions in the US and the world, MLML and MBARI will use their connection to CalREN to further their research programs and collaborations with other researchers worldwide and to enable complex ventures such as MBARI's Monterey Accelerated Research System (MARS), which will allow scientists to perform long-term and real-time experiments 900 meters below the surface of Monterey Bay and will serve as an engineering, science, and education test bed for even larger regional ocean observatories. The Institute's connection to CalREN will play a crucial role in making the data gathered by the MARS system available for MBARI researchers and others in the research community with a collaborative interest.

To learn more, visit <http://www.cenic.org/about/releases/08282006.htm>.

-- *Janis Cortese, CENIC*

College of the Desert Hooks Up To CalREN -- Story in "The Desert Sun"

Those of you in the Coachella Valley who subscribe to "The Desert Sun" newspaper may have read about the College of the Desert's Gigabit connectivity to CalREN as part of CENIC's project to bring the benefits of high-bandwidth R&E networking to the fast-growing Coachella Valley. Here's an excerpt:

Want to download a full-length movie in one second? Students starting classes at the College of the Desert today may now be able to do just that, thanks the school's recent upgrade to a new super high-speed Internet link. The COD hookup is part of a valleywide initiative to keep Palm Desert's college campuses on the cutting edge of technology, made possible with a \$3.4 million grant from the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation. While COD plugged in two weeks ago, the one-gigabit system - able to download one billion bits a second - is already running at the valley campuses of the University of California, Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino.

To read more about what it took to bring the world to the California desert at Gigabit speeds, visit "The Desert Sun" online and read the whole article:

Source: <http://www.thedesertsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20060828&Category=NEWS04&ArtNo=608280328&SectionCat=&Template=printart>

CalREN Update: Network Projects and Activities

In the June issue of CENIC Today, we reported that San Diego State University would soon receive its second Gigabit connection to CalREN in accordance with the Campus Access Infrastructure Initiative, which seeks to provide all Cal State campuses diverse Gigabit connectivity to the CalREN backbone. We're delighted to report that SDSU's connection is up and running. And as mentioned previous, the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute are also connected to CalREN-DC via a Gigabit connection. Meanwhile in the University of California, UC Davis has recently placed an order for an upgrade of their connection to CalREN-HPR to 10-Gigabit Ethernet.

For the K-12 segment, a Form 470 was recently posted to qualify potential new and upgraded K12 circuits for federal and state discounts in preparation for CENIC's E-rate application for 2007-08. The Schools and Libraries Universal Service Fund, popularly known as the "E-Rate," was created as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to ensure that all eligible schools and libraries in the United States have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services.

-- *Ed Smith, CENIC*

CENIC's 2007 Annual Conference Call for Presentations and Hotel Registration

The CENIC 2007 Program Committee is seeking presentations, demonstrations, and panel discussions focused on network-enabled applications and research related to the 2007 conference theme, Making Waves.

We are planning for sessions that cover technology and infrastructure, teaching and learning, application development and use, trends, and/or future developments in network technology and related applications. Presentations focused on research, teaching and learning activities involving multiple segments of the K-20 community, and/or international collaborations are encouraged. Projects or studies to be featured may be works-in-progress. The conference venue will be connected to CalREN, NLR, and Internet2 to enable live demonstrations of content or capability.

Past topics have included optical networking, teragrid computing, network security, implementing IPv6, end-to-end connectivity, quality of service, last mile solutions, wireless technology, collaborative music and dance, and collaborative medicine.

The deadline for proposals is November 3, 2006.

To learn more about how you can become a presenter at CENIC `07: Making Waves and showcase how CalREN has enabled you to achieve your research and education goals, please visit <http://cenic07.cenic.org/> for more information.

As noted previously, CENIC `07: Making Waves will be held at:

The San Diego La Jolla Marriott Hotel
4240 La Jolla Village Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 587-1414

Starting today, you can reserve your room to take part in Making Waves by visiting the CENIC `07: Making Waves website at <http://cenic07.cenic.org/> or clicking on the following link:

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/SANLJ?groupCode=cencena&app=resvlink>

Looking forward to seeing you in La Jolla in March 2007!

-- Janis Cortese, CENIC

National Networking News

NLR Offering Opportunities for Participation in SC|06

National LambdaRail (NLR) invites short proposals from researchers that wish to demonstrate their application(s) in the NLR booth at SC|06. NLR will provide connectivity to the NLR PacketNet (Layer 3) and access to a high definition display. Proposals should be submitted via the web at <http://www.nlr.net/sc06/>.

Proposal Deadline - 15 September 2006

Notification of Acceptance - 30 September 2006

Information needed includes:

- Application/Subject Name
- Name and contact information of liaison
- Description (no more than 250 words)
- Type of additional hardware/software desired
- Current NLR affiliation
- Web link to more information
- Booth information at SC06 (name, number if available)

The proposals will be reviewed by NLR staff and colleagues. Preference will be given to applications which already have purchased networks from NLR and NLR member institutions.

For updated information on NLR plans for the conference, see <http://www.nlr.net/sc06/>.

Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Joins University of California to Launch New Web Site Linking Thousand of Historical Sources

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O.Connell today joined officials from the University of California to announce the launch of the Calisphere Web site at www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu (Outside Source). This free Web site offers educators, students, and the general public access to more than 150,000 digitized primary sources from the libraries and museums of the UC campuses and cultural heritage organizations across California.

"We know that learning is more exciting and teaching is more effective the closer a student gets to primary sources of information," O.Connell said. "The Calisphere Web site is a remarkable learning tool that will provide students with a rich experience of California's multicultural heritage. It puts the libraries and museums of the entire University of California system, along with rich historical resources from cultural heritage organizations, right at the fingertips of our students."

Calisphere makes it easy for educators to find images and documents aligned with the K-12 California Content Standards.

Source: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr06/yr06rel92.asp>

Cal Poly SLO Installs New ID Systems

New students at Cal Poly this fall probably won't notice, but their existence in campus computers will no longer rely solely on their Social Security numbers.

The machines will instead use a different day-in, day-out identification number for first-time students on a new PeopleSoft software system, according to campus information security officer Vicki Stover.

Departments will communicate about students using the new number. Professors, faculty and most staff will use it, too, and won't have access to student Social Security numbers.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/local/15178137.htm>

California Schools Finish High in Washington Monthly College Rankings

To put their college rankings together, The Washington Monthly started with the following assumptions about what constitutes the "best" schools. They asked themselves: What are reasonable indicators of how much a school is benefiting the country? They came up with three: how well it performs as an engine of social mobility (ideally helping the poor to get rich rather than the very rich to get very, very rich), how well it does in fostering scientific and humanistic research, and how well it promotes an ethic of service to country. They then devised a way to measure and quantify these criteria (See "A Note on Methodology"). Finally, they placed the schools into rankings.

In these rankings, California's colleges and universities (most of whom are CalREN Associates) finished very high. UC campuses Berkeley, San Diego, and Davis finished in the top ten, as did Stanford University. UC Riverside, USC, Caltech, and San Diego State University also finished high.

Source: <http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2006/0609.collegechart.html>

CSU Northridge Receives Nearly \$2million for Students in Math, the Sciences

Cal State Northridge has received nearly \$2 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to provide support for students considering careers in the sciences.

Among the programs the grant will support is one that targets freshmen studying the sciences. The program offers a summer institute where the students receive additional tutoring in math and writing to prepare them for the coming year. Other programs target lower-division and upper-division students interested in biomedical careers. It provides them with opportunities to do research alongside faculty at the campus, whether they are lower-division or upper-division.

Source: <http://www.calstate.edu/newsline/2006/n20060809nor2.shtml>

University of California Partners With Google For Digital Book Search

It's been almost 2 years since Google dramatically expanded its book digitization program -- originally known as Google Print but now called Google Book Search -- from only having publisher partners to including five major research libraries. Now, another major research institution has joined the Google Book Search library program (<http://books.google.com/>). The 100 libraries on the 10 campuses of the University of California (UC) -- the largest research and academic library in the world -- opened a composite 34 million book collection to Google. In making the announcement, UC clearly indicated its intention to go all the way and include in-copyright materials in its contribution, even though the Google Book Search project already faces two major lawsuits from publishers and authors challenging its legality.

Mission, more than money, is driving the move, although revenue issues were thoroughly discussed. In making the announcement, Robert C. Dynes, president of the University of California, made the following statement: "The digitization project furthers UC's mission. It greatly expands our ability to give scholars and the public access to the kinds of information and ideas that drive scholarly innovation and public knowledge and discourse."

Source: <http://www.infoday.com/newsbreaks/nb060814-2.shtml>

Stanford to Open Online High School for Gifted Students

Stanford University will open the nation's first online high school for the gifted this fall. University administrators say that the high school grew out of a summer school for advanced students, as well as existing Internet courses offered by Stanford's Education Program for Gifted Youth.

"We want to set high expectations and push these kids," said Ray Ravaglia, academic research and program officer for the program. "They will be happiest in an environment where they can realize their full potential."

Source: http://www.campus-technology.com/news_article.asp?id=19083&typeid=150

TeraGrid Computations Show Gyroid Defect Formation

The Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science, has published findings from computations performed by the TeraGyroid Project, a large-scale grid-computing project that linked more than 6,000 processors with a capability of 17 teraflops (trillions of calculations per second) at six different facilities on two continents. The resulting simulations are the first to show formation and evolution of realistic gyroid systems structures that are a fascinating hybrid of liquid-solid physical features.

The paper, "Chirality and domain growth in the gyroid mesophase," Proceedings of the Royal Society A (23 June 2006), is authored by theoretical chemist Peter Coveney, University College London, and his colleague Jonathan Chin. "Thanks to the TeraGrid," said Coveney, "we were able to harness unprecedented resources and look at a problem that hadn't been studied before."

Source: <http://www.teragrid.org/news/news06/0821.html>

History Without Books Gets a Test in California K-12 Schools

School children fond of chanting "No more pencils, no more books" may finally have their wish.

What began as a long-shot attempt last year by Pearson Plc to sell California educators digital materials to teach social studies has become reality in what could be the first large-scale step to eliminate books from classrooms.

Pearson, the world's biggest publisher of educational materials, disclosed on Monday with its half-year results that about half the state's elementary school students will learn about the American Revolutionary War and Thomas Jefferson using an interactive computer program.

The company also said its success in California, where about 1.5 million students aged 5-11 will use the program in classrooms this year, has led it to plan the same approach in additional states and with more subjects.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2006/08/01/history_without_books_gets_a_test_in_california_schools/

About CENIC

California's education and research communities leverage their networking resources under the umbrella of a nonprofit corporation known as CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, in order to obtain cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking to support their missions and answer the needs of their faculty, staff, and students. CENIC designs, implements, and operates CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, a high-bandwidth, high-capacity Internet network specially designed to meet the unique requirements of these communities, and to which the vast majority of the state's K-20 educational institutions are connected. In order to facilitate collaboration in education and research, CENIC also provides connectivity to non-California institutions and industry research organizations with which CENIC's Associate researchers and educators are engaged.

CENIC is governed by its member institutions. Representatives from these institutions also donate expertise through their participation in various committees designed to ensure that CENIC is managed effectively and efficiently, and to support the continued evolution of the network as technology advances.

For more information, visit 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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