CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

UF Internet and Internet2 Connections Upgraded

UF Information Technology

UFIT

2046 NE Waldo Rd, Suite 2100
Gainesville Florida 32609-8942
(352) 392.2061
<editor@cns.ufl.edu>
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Oversize plasma displays show a meeting among multiple venues around the country for videoconferencing purposes using an Access Grid. The top display shows UF. Over Internet2, real-time quality videoconferencing is possible.

The University of Florida Internet and Internet2 (I2) connection upgrades have been completed. In support of UF's mission as a major research institution, the University of Florida Research Foundation, Inc. has funded these enhancements to UF network capabilities. The new bandwidth will greatly facilitate high-end research computing as well as allow us to improve service to the commodity Internet connection.

On Tuesday, October 16, 2001, the new OC-3 Qwest Internet circuit was brought online. This boosted the UF Internet connection to a combined bandwidth of 200 Mbps. Then, on Sunday, October 21, 2001, the new Internet2 circuit was activated. The new I2 circuit has a bandwidth of 467 Mbps. BellSouth will provide the local loop circuit to connect our new Internet2 (OC-12) connection to the Abilene national network backbone via Qwest Communications.

"This upgrade meets current needs, allows room for growth, and also builds capacity to facilitate the next upgrade to a higher bandwidth circuit," Charles Frazier, UF's vice provost for information technology said. "This helps to position UF well among our competitors in the task of recruiting and retaining very high quality faculty."

UF, along with many other universities, has been using Internet2 since 1998. It serves as a network for universities, industry and government to use in research and development of new technologies. However, this upgrade makes UF the leader among Florida universities using Internet2 in terms of capacity, Frazier said.
For the Internet2 connection, the upgrade will enable continued development in the areas of end-to-end performance testing, quality-of-service (QoS) testing, multicasting, and IPv6. Internet Protocols version 6 (IPv6) is the technology that will allow the continuing expansion of the Internet by expanding IP-address availability and fostering the development of wireless networks. UF has already begun implementation of a wireless network that will allow people to use mobile computing devices on the UF campus. The Internet2 upgrade will allow continued development of this new and exciting technology.

The upgrade is also critical to other major UF research projects such as the International Virtual Data Grid Laboratory (iVDGL). This National Science Foundation-funded project will link computer systems at Universities and laboratories across four continents for large-scale resource sharing via fiber-optic cables. The more robust our Internet connections and network, the better UF is able to participate in these important research opportunities.

UF is also committed to participating in the Internet K20 Initiative. This is a national project that has a goal to extend Internet2 access to the educational community to get new network technologies into the hands of innovators in the public school system, community colleges, museums, libraries, and other educational affiliates. They will explore ways in which network services can be applied to educational aims and resources.

If you have any questions relating to UF’s new Internet connections, please contact Network Services at net-services@ufl.edu [mailto:net-services@ufl.edu].

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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