CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

New 45Mbps Internet Connection Available

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UF Information Technology

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One of the steps necessary to meet the growing requirements for Internet access is to establish a faster Internet connection. We installed a network upgrade to a 45Mbps Internet connection on August 25, 1997. Additionally, we installed a new network translation unit to support the increased use of private IP. According to Ron Schoenau, director of NERDC, the speed increase is very noticeable between UF and some sites, while with other sites, "there is no difference because there are many bottlenecks on the Internet. We just eliminated the one between Gainesville and Jacksonville."

The improved throughput was necessary since the previous 10Mbps connection reached full capacity in the early morning and stayed that way throughout the day, according to Dave Pokorney, NERDC network services coordinator. Speaking from California during a recent business trip Pokorney said, "From my vantage point here (on the 'other side' of the Internet), the new 45Mbps connection is quite an improvement over the 10Mbps connection. It is so improved from the last time I was out here in the San Francisco Bay area that I can actually do reasonable work (at UF) from here. We should keep in mind, however, that the link that was upgraded represents only one of a dozen or so links that one may pass through to reach a destination. Most of these links fall outside of BellSouth.net or Gridnet's control," Pokorney added.

Because BellSouth.net 45Mbps services were not available in Gainesville, NERDC had to install a DS3 link to the BellSouth.net POP (point of presence) in Jacksonville.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Internet2 project, NERDC plans to explore alternative ISP connections for added redundancy to our Internet BellSouth.net connection.

The upgrade to a 45Mbps connection was done in cooperation with the Florida Department of Management Services ATS (Advanced Telecommunications Services) program. The program facilitates affordable telecommunications services to educational, library, and health care facilities throughout the state of Florida, and has been helpful in saving UF close to $80,000/year. You can read more about this program at: http://sun6.dms.state.fl.us/ats/.

According to Schoenau, the Office of the Provost at UF is paying the additional $100,000 per year for the improved connection.

If you have questions about this upgrade or about campus network services please call NERDC Network Services at (352) 392-2061, or send e-mail to net-services@lists.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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