CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

ANNUAL REVIEW 1997-1998
Internet2: The puzzle and the pieces

CNS Document ID: u979816a2
Last Updated: 11/01/98

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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The puzzle and the pieces

I2, FloridaNet, SoX, vBNS? What are all these pieces, and how do they fit together?

What is Internet2?

Internet2 (I2) [http://www.internet2.edu] is a collaborative effort by more than 120 U.S. universities to develop advanced Internet technology and applications vital to the research and education missions of higher education. Internet2 is a project of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) [http://www.ucaid.edu] and is working with industry and the federal government. UF is a member of UCAID and I2, and NERDC participates by providing much of the technical expertise, equipment, and operational management needed to facilitate UF's role in this venture.

About vBNS

The National Science Foundation's very-high-speed Backbone Network Service [http://www.vbns.net] is currently the primary means of interconnecting the various regional high-speed networks, which, in aggregate, form Internet2. Use of the vBNS is limited to institutions and organizations which have applied to NSF and been approved for this purpose. The vBNS is focused on the development and implementation of meritorious high performance applications, services, technologies, and protocols for the U.S. research and education community.

About SoX

The Southern Crossroads (SoX) [http://www.sox.net] is a cooperative initiative by the members of the Southeastern University Research Association (SURA). SoX is designed to facilitate access to current and future highly integrated, digital communications services for education, research and economic development within the region and across the United States.

As it evolves, SoX will enable a highly functional, reliable communications system with the ability to integrate high performance voice, data and video services in a competitive multi-vendor environment at reasonable cost and with a quality of service standard.

SoX will serve to connect both Internet2 and non-Internet2 members to each other and to the Next Generation Internet, thus enhancing opportunities for collaboration among university researchers at differing institutions throughout the Southeast. (This information comes from the SoX home page.)

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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