CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

UF Upgrades Core With ATM Technology

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UF Information Technology

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In another milestone for the UF Intranet and Internet2 (I2), NERDC Network Services has switched the connection between the Internet and the UF Intranet to ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) technology.

The move is away from FDDI (fiber distributed data interface), a shared media backbone on which routers would compete for bandwidth. ATM provides virtual point-to-point connectivity, which, in turn, provides greater reliability and a more predictable traffic flow.

"We're moving off the FORE PowerHubs onto a powerful combination of Cisco Catalyst 5500 switch routers and IBM 8265 ATM switches," Dan Miller, NERDC network coordinator, said. "Users will see marked improvements in reliability and throughput due to this change," said Miller. Network Services has tested these components extensively and expects good results.

This move brings Network Services closer to its goal of replacing the PowerHubs (which use FDDI technology) by the beginning of the Fall semester 1998.

Network Services has moved more than half of the campus -- including the Division of Housing and the Health Science Center -- to the ATM backbone.

The switch also advances the Internet2 project.

"Moving the Internet connection to the ATM backbone will enable higher quality connections to Internet2 universities," Miller said. Currently, I2 is comprised of a rapidly growing collection of more than 50 universities.

Your Comments are Welcome

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