

Frequently Asked Questions – Internet2 Membership Structure

This FAQ is a work in progress and we welcome your additional questions as we work toward a final document. If you have additional questions not addressed in this FAQ, please email membershipmodel2009@internet2.edu.

1. Why is the Internet2 membership structure being revised?

The new Internet2 membership structure was created in an effort to better align benefits and expectations of members with the mission of Internet2. Additionally:

- The current “one size fits all” fee structure has been an obstacle to existing and prospective members.
- A new structure would help to resolve the practice of having separate billings for membership dues and network participation fees, which has been confusing to Internet2 members and also difficult to administer.
- A new structure will provide a uniform application of Sponsored Participant guidelines.
- A new structure would open the door to different levels of participation for many SEGP participants and smaller organizations from the Internet2 membership.

2. Has the value of Internet2 membership changed, requiring that the membership structure change?

The value of Internet2 membership remains steadfast. With the recommendation of different levels of membership comes a better definition and delineation of member benefits. Organized by membership levels, member benefits recognize the different levels of involvement in governance and access to expertise and services.

3. What are the different levels of membership?

- **Level 1:** Higher Education (currently University members) members with Carnegie Classifications of Very High Research Activity (RU/VH); Affiliate Members with annual operating budgets greater than \$1 billion; and Industry Members with annual revenues greater than \$1 billion [Requires Membership]
- **Level 2:** Higher Education members with Carnegie Classifications of High Research Activity (RU/H) [Requires Membership]
- **Level 3:** Doctoral Research Universities (DRU); Masters Level (ML) – Large Programs; Special Focus Institutions - Medical Schools and Medical Centers (Spec/Med); University System Offices, Affiliate Members with annual operating budgets greater than \$100million and less than \$1 billion; and Industry Members with annual revenues that are greater than \$10 million and less than \$1 billion [Does Not Require Membership]
- **Level 4:** Higher Education members with any Carnegie Classification not previously identified in Levels 1,2 and 3 and Affiliate Members with annual operating budgets less than \$100 million and Industry Members with annual revenues less than \$10 million. [Does Not Require Membership]

4. For those organizations that fit the criteria for Levels 1 and 2, is it required in the structure that they remain or become Level 1 or Level 2 members?

Yes. Any institution/organization that falls under these categories must be a Level 1 or a Level 2 member in order to obtain or retain connectivity to the Internet2 network.

5. My organization is currently a University Member of Internet2. Is my organization required to move to a lower level of membership based on the Carnegie Classification eligibility criteria, or may we choose to remain a University Member with corresponding dues and benefits at a higher level?

Your organization is not required to move to a lower level of membership based on your Carnegie Classification. You may choose to remain at or move to a higher membership level to take advantage of the increased level of benefits.

6. Is a member required to remain at a specific level, or can they opt to select a higher level or drop to a lower level for which they are qualified?

A member may choose to select a higher level or select their lowest qualified level at any time.

7. My organization is currently a University Member of Internet2 and sponsors one or more Sponsored Participants and/or a SEGP, but we fit the eligibility criteria for Level 2 or 3. Will my organization become ineligible to sponsor these organizations or to initiate any future sponsorships if we choose to move to Level 2 or 3?

Under the new Membership Structure, organizations in Levels 1 and 2 are eligible to maintain sponsorship of individual Sponsored Participants and SEGPs and may sponsor new organizations going forward. Ability to sponsor eligible organizations is a benefit that extends to University Members in Levels 1 and 2 only. However, if an organization previously designated as an Internet2 University Member (now designated as Level 1 or 2) elects to move to Level 3 based on new eligibility criteria, existing sponsorship benefits will not be available at Level 3. Internet2 will work with these Level 3 organizations to identify suitable arrangements for reassigning sponsored organizations and SEGPs.

8. What happens if there are institutions that belong in Levels 1 or 2 but they have been placed behind a SEGP or are Sponsored Participants?

Generally speaking, there should not currently be any Level 1 or 2 institutions that are Sponsored Participants or that connect behind a SEGP. If there is an individual institution in this situation, Internet2 will work with that institution and with the connector (and/or SEGP involved) to help determine the best plan forward. At this point, it is expected that after some period of time (yet to be determined) the organization would become a Level 1 or a Level 2 member.

9. Will organizations that were connected via SEGP or sponsored participation that now are classified as Level 3 or 4 under the new structure be forced to become a Level 3 or 4 member? Or can these organizations retain their connectivity through the SEGP or sponsored participation?

Any institution that fits the criteria for Level 3 or 4 can choose to become or remain a member of Internet2, however, they **would not be required** to become a member to obtain or retain their connection to the Internet2 Network through their SEGP connection.

10. How would the current SEGP structure and fees change in response to the membership structure?

The current SEGP structure and fees will not be affected by the new membership structure.

11. My organization is a Research and Education (R&E) Network Member. Are there plans to change the current R&E Network membership to one of the three membership levels or to change the dues for this constituency?

Research and Education Network Members are assigned to the Level 3 category in the membership structure. There are currently no plans to make any changes to the related dues structure for R&E Network Members.

12. Is Internet2 introducing a new membership structure in order to raise additional revenue by raising fees and dues?

No – the structure will not result in increased revenues for the Internet2 organization, and, in fact, will mean an initial decrease in revenues for Internet2 as current members may be reassigned to other membership levels with lower fees.

13. Are membership dues and network participation fees increasing in 2010?

The chart found at the URL below provides details on the Board approved fees.

<http://www.internet2.edu/membership/docs/2009MembershipFinancialStructure.pdf>

14. What is the expectation regarding increases in membership dues and network participation fees in subsequent years?

Membership dues and network participation fees for subsequent years will be considered during the course of the Board's annual budget deliberations and will be communicated in a timely manner to the membership at the time a decision is reached.

15. Will Internet2 modify their billing procedure for membership dues and network participation fees?

In an effort to streamline this process, Internet2 will create a single invoice that combines both membership dues and network participation fees. However, the membership dues and network participation fees will be presented as separate line items on the invoice to help facilitate the process for those members who pay these two annual fees from different sources. The Internet2 Board will determine when this single invoice will be implemented with as much advanced notice as possible.

16. When will the membership structure be implemented?

Based on Board feedback, we hope to implement the membership structure by early 2010. A full implementation plan will be developed and shared with the community in a timely fashion.

17. How can my organization provide input to the membership structure?

If you have additional questions not addressed in this FAQ, please email membershipmodel2009@internet2.edu. We also hope the Fall Member Meeting in October provides us a face-to-face opportunity to answer any questions.