

NLR/Internet2 Merger

EDUCAUSE 2005
Orlando, Florida



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Status

- Board authorizations to undertake merger discussions in late June
- July designation of NLR/Internet2 joint merger team
 - 4 NLR: Tracy Futhey (chair), Erv Blythe, Ron Johnson, Tom West (CEO)
 - 4 Internet2: Larry Faulkner (chair), Don Randel, Jack McCredie, Doug Van Houweling (CEO)



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Status

- August merger team meetings (8/15,23)
- The issues were more complex than anticipated
- Next merger team meeting 11/20-21
- Expect to bring results to the two boards after November meeting



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Differences/Complementarities

- Organizational structure
 - Partnership or membership
 - Limited or substantial staff
- Membership
 - Universities or regional optical networks
- Backbone infrastructure
 - Fiber IRU or leased wavelength
- Financial
 - \$5M 5-year regional commitments or annual \$49,500 university fee plus shared regional connectivity from \$220K-\$480K



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Differences/Complementarities

- Scope
 - Network connectivity or the “layer cake”
- Focus
 - Primarily network research & large scale applications or comprehensive
- Control
 - Regional networks and CIO’s
 - Universities CEO’s and CIO’s



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NewOrg Convergence

- Organizational structure: increased membership control with adequate staff
- Membership: Both universities and regional networks represented
- Backbone infrastructure: Fiber IRU w/leased waves where cost/effective
- Financial: Continued role for major contributors, regional connectors, and university members
- Scope: Inclusive of both NLR & Internet2 with board oversight



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NewOrg Convergence

- Focus: Using optical infrastructure, support network research, large scale applications, and comprehensive university and state network connectivity
- Control: CEO's, regional network leadership, and CIO's



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Merger Benefits

- Cost-effectiveness
- Unified national higher education networking
 - Coordination of initiatives across layers
 - Corporate and federal support
 - Policy advocacy
 - International collaboration
 - Interdisciplinary work



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TBD

- Reach agreement on board structure, financial arrangements, in compliance with prior organizational commitments, to enable the convergence
- We're working on it!
- The joint merger team believes the benefits make it worth the effort



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