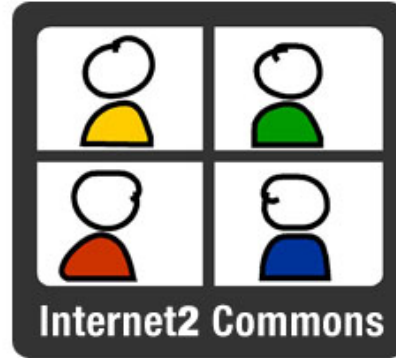




Commons

H.323 Multipoint IP Videoconferencing



The Internet2 Commons provides multi-party videoconferencing services with advanced features such as simultaneous streaming, archiving, high-bandwidth support, and multiple video layout options. Internet2 members and partners can connect to their peers, independent of endpoint brands, through an existing Internet2 network connection.

The Commons at work

- Meet regularly with research colleagues and working groups
- Hold panel discussions or team teach classes
- Present poetry slams, music concerts, and other inter-institutional events
- Let your imagination get carried over IP

Become a subscriber

- Rely on experienced videoconferencing support and advanced network infrastructure
- Connect using Internet2 high-speed networks vs. expensive ISDN
- Connect with others across multiple vendor endpoints
- Replace telephone conferencing with face-to-face videoconferencing
- Save time and costs on traveling to in-person meetings

Two subscription options

Prime: \$2,000 Annual Fee, 300 port hours of multi-party videoconferencing per year
Requires a designated Site Coordinator in the subscribing group 300 Port Hours, with additional time available at 10 cents/port-minute

Alliance: \$1,000 Annual Fee, 100 hours of back up service to your own MCU, 100 Port Hours

The Internet2 Commons provides critical services from a centralized location, saving [NEES – the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation] time and money, allowing me to put my energy into supporting the end users.

- Erik Hofer, University of Michigan

This collaboration provides creative strategies that leverage the scarcity of nursing informatics faculty and offers students participation in a wealth of research projects and innovations across multiple institutions.

- Connie Delaney,
Professor Integrated Seminar in Nursing Informatics,
University of Iowa

The Megaconference used the Internet2 Commons to draw together presenters and a participatory audience. It was amazing to see low-bandwidth viewers gain access via the Commons streaming option, which even created an archive of the event.

- a Megaconference participant

Frequently Asked Questions about the H.323 Service

Who may subscribe?

Anyone in education, research or other not-for-profit organizations within the Internet2 member community can subscribe to the H.323 service. Other organizations with ties to an Internet2 member institution may be eligible as well. Contact commons-info@internet2.edu for further information about eligibility.

How do I subscribe?

Fill out the application at commons.internet2.edu/h323/apply and we'll contact you shortly.

What are the main features?

- Book in advance: up to 5 months (1 semester)
- Quality: 384, 768 Kbs and higher
- Video Display: continuous-presence grid or voice-activated video display
- Availability: 24 hours a day / 7 days a week
- Help Desk: 7:00am to midnight Eastern time
- Connectivity monitoring: upon request
- Streaming and archiving: upon request, 3 week archive

What is a site coordinator?

Site coordinators are necessary for each subscriber, in order to: support endpoint users; troubleshoot the network; setup audio and video; administer the GDS zone; troubleshoot firewalls and NATs; and more. For full details on duties, certification, and training programs, visit commons.internet2.edu.

How does each call get billed?

For each call, you will decide either to “host” or to “split” the charges. The scheduling organization picks up “host” charges. The group shares “split” charges. If a non-subscribing guest participates in the call—for example, an international researcher overseas—the charges for this participant will be allocated to the host or to the group of subscribers in that call.

What is the Alliance subscription?

If you already manage your own Multi-Point Control Unit (MCU), consider taking advantage of our MCUs as backup, ready to save your conference in case of a local system failure.

Can I try MCU-based videoconferencing before I subscribe?

The Internet2 Commons has a free trial service for you to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Trial features include: 9-port VS @384 Kbps or 4-port CP @384 Kbps.

What can I expect from the Internet2 Commons in the future?

Support for encryption, H.264, and SIP interoperability among the full collaboration suites hosted by the Commons, VRVS, and Access Grid support. We are committed to piloting the newest technologies available from our corporate collaborators.

How do I find out more?

Email us with any questions at commons-info@internet2.edu.

commons.internet2.edu