



International Handout

Internet2 and International Partnerships

Internet2 has forged partnerships with several peer organizations around the world. These peer organizations engage in projects similar to those of Internet2 in scope and objective, and most also serve similar constituencies – universities and other non-profit institutions committed to advancing networking technology and applications for use in the education and research community.

The goal of these international relationships is two-fold: to ensure global interoperability in the next generation of networking technologies, and to enable research and education through advanced applications on a worldwide scale. A high-speed, high-capacity “network of networks” with global reach will promote unprecedented collaboration between U.S. researchers, faculty, students, and their overseas counterparts.

Is My Organization Eligible to Become an "International Partner" of Internet2?

Generally, Internet2 is interested in forming these mutually beneficial relationships with:

- Organizations that are committed to similar goals to those of the Internet2 project.
- Organizations that represent and service similar constituencies (i.e., non-profit, primarily university and other research organizational membership).

My Network Wants to Peer with the Internet2 Network. What do I Need to Do?

First, note that Internet2 itself is not a network; rather, it is the sum total of all the various parts the Internet2 community, including member universities and research institutions, as well as the actual infrastructure that links them.

There are, however, two Internet2 nation-wide backbone networks with which you might peer: the “very high performance Backbone Network Service (**vBNS**), and the **Abilene** Network.

In general, Abilene peers only with networks who have users committed to the same goals as the Internet2 project. This also means that most networks peered with Abilene do so under the aegis of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Internet2 project.

What is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?

The documents through which Internet2 formally builds ties with international peer organizations are called “Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).” An MoU is a mutual agreement, signed by Internet2 and the peer organization. It typically includes such provisions as:

- Physical interconnection between Internet2 and the peer organization.
- Collaboration on advanced technology and applications development.
- Promoting the transfer of technology to the wider educational community and the commercial marketplace.

How do I initiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a peering agreement with Abilene?

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For more information, please see our website at www.internet2.edu/international