

The Internet2 Commons: Current Status and Plans for New Service Offerings

**A low-cost, shared, distributed
management approach to
video conferencing**

Bob Dixon

**OSCNet and
Ohio State University**

**Internet2 Digital Video Initiative Meeting
Internet2 Spring Member Meeting
Arlington, Virginia
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What is The Internet2 Commons?

- A production H.323 video conferencing bridging service, and many related services
- A test bed for new videoconferencing and collaboration tools

The Internet2 Commons Mission

- Promote and facilitate remote collaboration throughout the global research and education community by means of standards-based technologies.
- Build on useful technologies to create collaboration services that are: sustainable, scalable, and affordable
- Push developers to interoperate and listen to our users

Internet2 Commons Philosophy

- We are here to HELP people, not to run a business.
- We believe in the power of video conferencing to promote world togetherness.
- We use a shared, decentralized support model, to decrease costs and increase collegiality.
- We encourage vendors to donate equipment and services, to decrease costs and provide exposure and recognition for them.

Commons Distributed Support Model

- Each member provides a trained local site coordinator for first level support. (Commons provides training)
- OSC NOC provides second level support.
- OSU Full-time staff provide third level support.
- Distributed Management Team provides oversight and planning.

Commons Management Team

- **Larry Amiot, Northwestern**
- **David Devereaux-Weber, Wisconsin**
- **Bob Dixon, OSC and Ohio State**
- **Les Finken, Iowa**
- **Elaine Lauerman, Internet2**
- **Gabe Moulton, Ohio State**
- **Jennifer Oxenford, MAGPI and U. Penn.**
- **Nicholas Thompson, Ohio State**

Current Internet2 Commons Services

- Scheduled video conferences
- Ad-hoc video conferences
- Technical help from the OSCnet NOC and OSU professional staff
- Video streaming and archiving
- Access to collaboration tools:
IOCOM, Microsoft Conference XP, Vidyo

Current Internet2 Commons Services (cont.)

- Unlimited free gatekeeper registration for anyone
- Operation of Gatekeepers:
 - Western Hemisphere World Gatekeeper;
 - both of the redundant North America Gatekeepers
 - both of the redundant Commons Gatekeepers;
 - the historic Free Love Gatekeeper.
- Free support of many events, such as Megaconferences (NOV 6!), Megaconference Juniors, Gigaconferences, Collaboranzas, Internet2-related conferences (such as this one), etc.
- Video Conferencing training courses

New Trial Internet2 Commons Services

- Site Coordinators run the Commons MCUs themselves.
- Live monitoring of video conferences
- Guaranteed gatekeeper support and assistance
- Video streaming and archiving, NOT associated with a video conference

Who can join the Commons?

- Any non-profit or educational organization
- You need not be an Internet2 member
- You need not be connected to Internet2.

As a Commons member, who can I conference with?

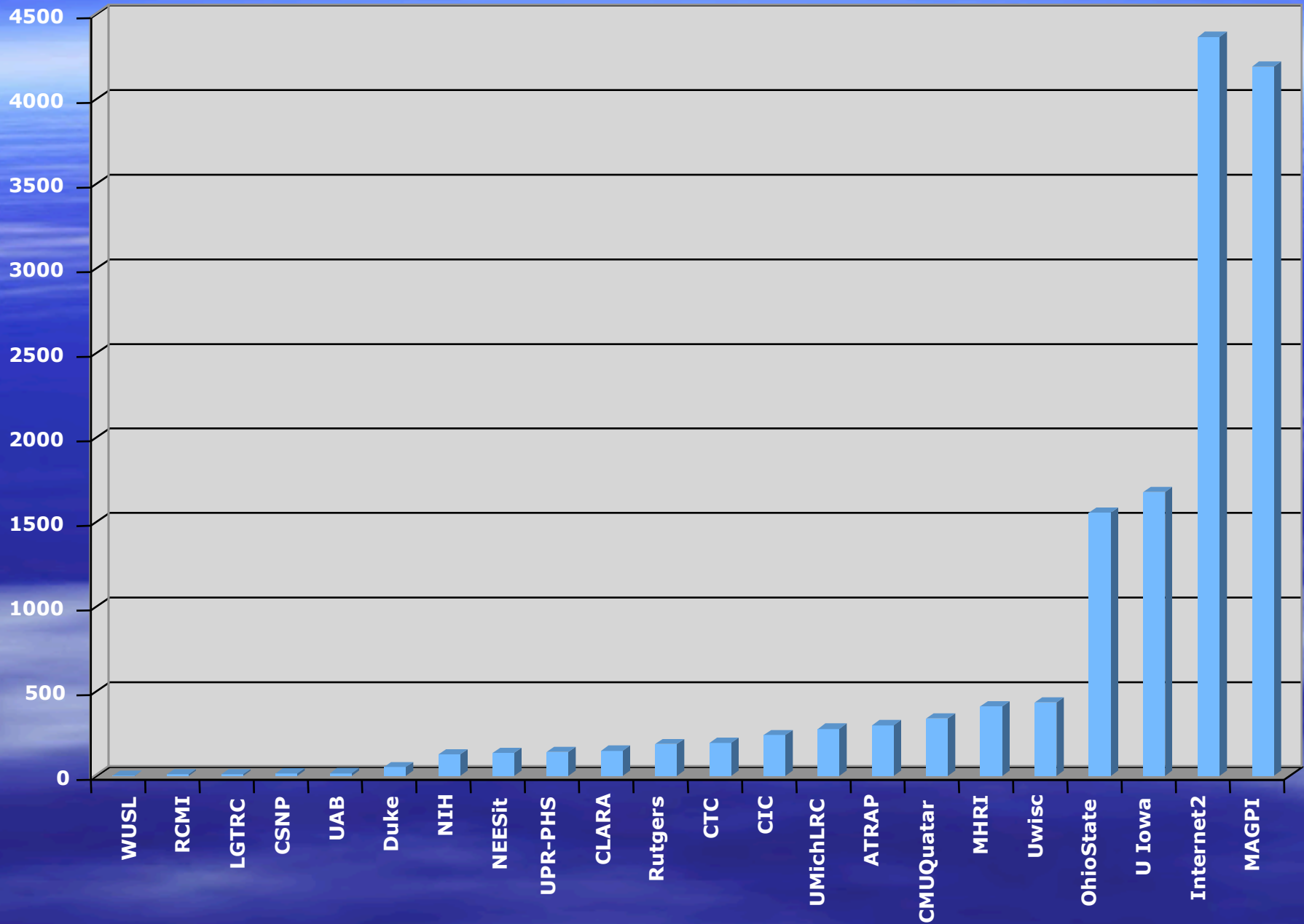
- **ANYBODY** anywhere in the world who has H.323 capability
- They need not be Internet2 members
- They need not be Commons members
- They need not be connected to Internet2

Current Commons Members

Boston College
Carnegie Mellon (Qatar)
CILC
CIC (Big 10)
CLARA (Latin America Network)
Clemson
Concurrent Technologies
Duke
Green Building Alliance
Harvard
Internet2
Jackson State
MAGPI
Michigan (3)

Northwestern
Ohio Supercomputer Center
Ohio State
OSHEAN
Rutgers
San Diego Supercomputer
Center
Alabama - Birmingham
Connecticut
Iowa
Minnesota
Univ Puerto Rico (2)
St Thomas
Wisconsin
Washington Univ

Internet 2 Commons Port Hours Used in 2007



What does the Commons get you?

- Mature technology, accepted standards, multiple vendors
- Advanced features in multiple MCUs
- Help! when you need it...and before
- MCUs, streamers and gatekeepers have unlimited bandwidth connectivity to the Internet.
- All equipment is remote-controlled, located in a secure, environmental and power controlled facility.

Special FREE TRIAL period

During the month of May, ALL Commons services, both current and new, are FREE to everyone.

Note, however that only certified site coordinators can request services.

Site Coordinator Training Course TODAY 12-5 PM

Available on-site here and remotely via video conferencing.

It is NOT TOO LATE to enroll. Go to the registration area immediately.

Options:

- Take the course here on-site. \$100 including lunch and handouts
- Go back home and take the course from there. \$75
- Contact people back home and have them take the course from there. \$75 each.

Don't miss out on the FREE services during May!

Questions?