SWITCH – Swiss University and Research Network

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Description

SWITCH is a foundation, sponsored by the government and the Swiss universities, providing teleinformatics services to all Swiss universities and to various research institutes by connecting to national and international resources. SWITCH started operation in October 1988.

SWITCHlan is a national backbone network which connects all universities using leased lines with speeds between 128 kbit/s and 2 Mbit/s. Most other organizations are connected via 64 kbit/sec. For routing on these national leased lines SWITCH uses CISCO routers. The protocols supported are DECnet, TCP/IP, X.25 and ISO CLNS.

All three Swiss supercomputers are connected to SWITCHlan. Access to some library catalogs is already available; others will join later.

International connections on the network level went into operation in January 1990. The current state today is:

- Two lines with TCP/IP to CERN, each 2 Mbit/s. This gives access to the European part of the Internet and access to the NSFnet via the EASIgate T1 link to Cornell.
- TCP/IP and ISO CLNS connection to Nice, France with 64kbit/s; this link is the backup route to the Internet/NSFnet.
- A TCP/IP 64 kbit/sec line to BelWue, a regional research network in southern Germany.

A 64 kbit/sec connection to the COSINE/IXI pilot X.25 network has been running since the first quarter of 1990. This infrastructure is mainly used for exchanging X.400 messages, connecting to other X.500 DSAs and for TCP/IP over X.25 and ISO CLNS over X.25 with the European Academic and Research Community.

SWITCHmail is the national X.400 MHS network which connects the universities and research institutes to the ADMD of the Swiss PTT and through COSINE-MHS to research MHS networks in 19 countries. E-mail gateways to EARN/BITNET, UUCP and Internet are also offered by SWITCH.

In RARE (Reseaux Associes pour la Recherche Europeenne, the European research network organisation), SWITCH is an active partner in the COSINE MHS project as well as in the COSINE pilot X.500 Directory Service project and the COSINE Information Service project.

Network Access

Any host on the network of a connected organization may access the network, as long the usage complies with the use policy of SWITCH.

Who Can Use the Network

SWITCH networks can only be used for academic and research traffic.