NorthWestNet

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Description

NorthWestNet is a regional (mid-level) network of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNet) providing communication with NSFNet for knowledge-based organizations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota. Member organizations include higher education and K-12 institutions, scientific laboratories, libraries, health care facilities, and industrial research units. The mission of NorthWestNet is to promote research, education, and economic development by providing access to network communications, computing and electronic information systems and services throughout the Northwest. Financial support of NorthWestNet comes from National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, institutional membership dues, and network service fees. NorthWestNet is a not-for-profit organization operated by the Northwest Academic Computing Consortium, Inc. (NWACC). This consortium of NorthWestNet members is governed by a Board of Directors elected from representatives of member organizations. There are three operating committees made up of member organization representatives focusing on Management, Technical Services, and User Services.

The Technical Services Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommending technical directions of the network. Currently, the network is based upon the TCP/IP protocol. Network Operations Center (NOC) services are provided under subcontract by the University of Washington's Computing and Communications. The NOC provides network engineering services, 24-hour-a-day monitoring of the network, diagnosis and repair, Domain Name Service, and other technical services necessary for ensuring the operational integrity of the regional network.

The User Services Committee focuses on documentation and training issues as they relate to use of the Internet. Vehicles for providing these services include the following: the NorthWestNet User Services Information Resource Guide, Node News quarterly newsletter, and the NorthWestNet annual meeting. The NorthWestNet User Services Internet Resource Guide is updated biannually and is available either in a hardbound published version (contact the administrative office for ordering information) or via anonymous ftp at ftphost.nwnet.net in the directory nic/nwnet/user-guide. The Node News newsletter gives up-to-date reports on current NorthWestNet activities. The Annual Meeting sponsored by NorthWestNet highlights Internet resources and services and offers discipline-specific workshops. Several new User Services offerings are under development including an on-line information center, specialized training programs, and a documentation database.

The Internet connection provided to NorthWestNet members brings a plethora of services including access to a wide-variety of databases, text, and information services; program repositories; information mediators such as archie, gopher, WAIS, and world-wide web; supercomputers; Usenet, listserv, and internet interest group forums; and a mail gateway machine. NorthWestNet members also enjoy common access services to for-fee database and information resources via an on-line license management system.

Network Access

Any IP host on the Internet may access NorthWestNet sites.

Who Can Use the Network

Use of the network is governed by an acceptable use policy which is available on request or via anonymous ftp at ftphost.nwnet.net in the directory /nic/nwnet/doc.

References

General information about NorthWestNet can be retrieved via anonymous ftp at ftphost.nwnet.net in the directory /nic/nwnet/doc.