THEnet – The Texas Higher Education Network

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Description

The Texas Higher Education Network (THEnet) was formed in 1986 through a combination of networking efforts at Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and the University of Texas System. It covers the state of Texas, with a link to the Instituto Tecnologico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico. THEnet's goal is to provide and advance the electronic exchange of information in support of the teaching, research, development, and related collaborative activities of the Texas higher education and research communities.

THEnet is not a homogeneous network utilizing a single networking protocol. Rather it is a network of physical connections between and within organizations making various use of IP, DECnet, SNA, RSCS/NJE, and compressed digital video It provides researchers, faculty, and students the networking "tools" that they need for their particular situations. THEnet currently connects over 80 institutions, and consists of approximately 3000 DECnet nodes, over 10,000 IP hosts, appx. 150 BITNET nodes, and 10 IBM mainframe hosts connected over SNA.

Network Services

Network information and operations management are provided through the University of Texas (UT) System Office of Telecommunication Services (OTS). The OTS provides both network information center (NIC) and network operations center (NOC) services to THEnet member institutions.

Informative documents are available on node nic.the.net (Internet) via anonymous FTP, and THENIC (DECnet) via default DECnet file access. See the file THENET.INDEX for a list of available documents.

Network Access

THEnet is an NSF regional network, with access to the NSFNET backbone through the NSS (Nodal Switching Subsystem) at Rice University in Houston. THEnet is connected to the Space Physics Analysis Network (SPAN) by DECnet routers at the University of Texas at Austin and NASA Johnson Space Center. Access to ESnet and HEPnet (ESnet-DECnet) is also provided through UT Austin, an ESnet backbone site. THEnet has external BITNET connectivity provided by Rice University via connections to the University of Missouri and Louisiana State University and by their participation in the BITNET II project (NJE over the TCP/IP-based Internet).

Who Can Use the Network

Membership in THEnet is open to all institutions of higher education in the state of Texas, as well as their affiliated research institutions. Commercial institutions which can demonstrate an education or research relationship to any THEnet higher education member are also eligible to join. Queries about membership or additional information should be directed to the postal address or one of the electronic mail addresses given above.