CERFNet – California Education and Research Federation Network

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Description

The California Education and Research Federation Network, CERFnet, is a data communications regional network that operates throughout California. The purpose of CERFnet is to advance science and education by assisting the interchange of information among research and educational institutions through high-speed data communications techniques.

CERFnet was launched in the spring of 1989 with a $2.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation. CERFnet links fifty of the leading research and education centers in California at data transfer rates of up to 1.544 megabits per second (T1). The CERFnet backbone nodes are located at UCLA, UC Irvine, SDSC, Caltech, and the UC Office of the President in Oakland, California. CERFnet membership is open to all organizations in California, including any university, college, industrial or government facility, hospital, or library.

CERFnet offers several different connection options. A CERF 1544 (1.544 Mbps), CERF 56 (56 kbps) or CERF 9.6 (9.6 kbps) entitles the subscriber to a dedicated leased circuit. CERFnet offers DIAL N' CERF, a dial-up SLIP service to the network. DIAL N' CERF subscribers connect to the network by dialing up the nearest backbone node and logging on to a CERFnet terminal server.

CERFnet also provides twenty-four-hour network surveillance and technical consulting, a telephone hotline ((619) 534-5087), weekly and monthly reports on network activity, a bimonthly newsletter, and CERFnet-sponsored seminars. In addition, CERFnet operates a Network Operations Center, located at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and a Network Information Center (NIC).

Network Access

CERFnet supports the TCP/IP protocol suite. Various documents, including miscellaneous information on CERFnet, are available on the CERFnet NIC. These are available via anonymous ftp to NIC.CERF.NET. There are several subdirectories: cerfnet_news, cerfnet_info, cerfnet_guide, and cerfnet_stats, which contain information such as the CERFnet bimonthly newsletter, acceptable use policy, brochure, and user's guide. (The CERFnet NIC is a UNIX-based workstation.)

Who can use the Network

Any IP host on the Internet may access CERFnet sites. Use of the network is governed by an acceptable use policy. A copy of this policy is available on request.

Miscellaneous

For more information please contact:

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