



Frequently Asked Questions about Internet2® Overview

What is Internet2?

Internet2 is the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. Internet2 brings the U.S. research and academic community together with technology leaders from industry, government and the international community to undertake collaborative efforts that have a fundamental impact on tomorrow's Internet.

Is Internet2 a separate network? Will Internet2 replace the current commercial Internet?

The Internet2 community, including universities, companies, regional advanced networks and other organizations, provides a nationwide high performance networking infrastructure and capabilities that connect nearly 300 member organizations and more than 42,000 research and education institutions such as high schools, museums and libraries across the United States. Rather than replacing it, these networks aim to continually provide capabilities that are 3-5 years ahead of the commercial Internet, providing a proving ground for new technologies that eventually benefit every Internet user.

Just as email and the World Wide Web are legacies of earlier investments in academic and federal research networks, the legacy of Internet2 is to expand the possibilities of the broader Internet.

How does Internet2 benefit current Internet users?

A primary goal of Internet2 is to ensure the transfer of new network technology and applications to the broader communities. Internet2 and its members are developing, deploying and using new networking technologies, including protocols such as IPv6, middleware and security capabilities such as federated authentication, and advanced applications such as high-definition videoconferencing. More than a faster Web or email, these new technologies enable people to use networking in completely new ways, such as digital libraries, virtual laboratories, distance-independent learning and tele-immersion, and tele-health. Many technologies that were earlier developed and tested among the Internet2 community have made their way into the equipment and software that used as part of today's commercial Internet.

Does Internet2 have publicly traded stock?

Internet2 is a not-for-profit research and development consortium and does not have publicly traded stock.