



Benchmarks Online

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UNT is now connected to Internet2! You may be wondering how you can actually use Internet 2 ("I2") and what you have to do to get connected to that backbone network. This article is a short description of the technology and the procedure you follow to use Internet2.information about other faculty research grant opportunities.

[Getting Help at the Helpdesk](#)

If you click on "Help" from one of the official pages off the main UNT Website, you will be taken to a page that tells you how to get help on a variety of things. The first item listed there is "Computing Center Helpdesk," followed by the statement: The place to go for help with anything related to computing at UNT. That statement is worth remembering.

[Loads O'Links](#)

Once a year or so we like to highlight UNT Websites that are of interest to the campus community but may have escaped your detection. .

[The Force is *almost* with us!](#)

Dr. Hinkle-Turner is taking a break this month from her General Access Lab feature to share some news about another important aspect of Student Computing Services here at UNT: computer-based training.

TODAY'S CARTOON

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Click on the title above for an information age laugh.

Don't forget to check out our monthly columns. This month's topics:

- [RSS Matters](#) -- "Summer programs in Quantitative Methods" Have you ever thought of taking a summer program at the University of Michigan or in Europe? Every summer, RSS offers financial support to UNT students to attend the summer program held by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The consortium offers a series of quantitative methods courses being taught by renowned researchers or scholars in various disciplines.
- [SAS Corner](#) -- "IML Workshop and IMLPlus" This article introduces the latest development of one of the SAS languages called Interactive Matrix Language (IML).
- [The Network Connection](#) -- "We've Arrived at Internet2" Starting on March 30, 2001, the University of North Texas was connected to Internet2. Right here, in this column, you can learn the technical significance of Internet2.
- [List of the Month](#) -- "TipWorld's 'Cool Web Site of the Day'" Find out about all the cool sites you've been missing.
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) -- "What's up with WebCT @ UNT?" Read the article and find out.
- [Short Courses](#) -- Spring Academic Computing Services (ACS) short courses are over, but other learning opportunities are still available.
- [IRC News](#) -- Minutes of the Information Resources Council are printed here when they are available. The March 13, 2001 minutes are included this time.

Staff Activities -- New employees, employees that have resigned, employee awards and recognitions and other staff changes are included in this article.

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Research and Statistical Support

University of North Texas

RSS Matters: Summer programs in Quantitative Methods

By [Dr. Karl Ho](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

It is time to plan for your summer break again. Have you ever thought of taking a summer program at the University of Michigan or in Europe? Every summer, RSS offers financial support to UNT students to attend the summer program held by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The consortium offers a series of quantitative methods courses being taught by renowned researchers or scholars in various disciplines.

The program has two sessions. The first one is offered between June 25 and July 20; the second is between July 23 and August 17. The courses range from four-day workshops to eight-week credit awarding courses. For a list of the course titles, visit the [ICPSR Summer program Website](#).

For Political Science students, there is another opportunity for financial support. The Clogg Scholarship Award is available for ADVANCED graduate students for application. The award is a waiver of the Program Scholar fees to attend the four and/or eight week program. For more details, contact [Professor Jim Meernik](#), one of our ICPSR Official Representatives in the Political Science department.

If you want to learn more about the life in summer Ann Arbor, read the [Benchmarks article](#) by Austin Kang, one of the former attendants. The now Dr. Kang gave a vivid account of his learning experience in Michigan. You certainly will find this article informative and interesting.

Just what is ICPSR?

For those who are not sure what ICPSR is, let me briefly go over what the consortium is and how much research resources are available for UNT researchers. The consortium currently holds over 4,500 data titles, which include 44,800 data files and 4,750 documents associated with the data titles. Data from a quarter of the data titles are downloadable for the general public via the consortium's Website (<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>). As a member of ICPSR, however, researchers at UNT are eligible to have access to all data sets archived at the consortium. While some of the files are directly downloadable from the sites (including machine-readable codebooks and certain data titles), research can order the data from RSS office's Website (<http://www.unt.edu/rss/>).

If you are not interested in a "local" program, there is another summer program that offers methods courses. The Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection held at University of Essex also offers a wide range of methods courses. And, it is in Europe! For more details, visit the [University of Essex Summer School website](#).

Be reminded, the deadlines of application for the ICPSR travel stipends and the Clifford C. Clogg scholarship are imminent. They are April 30, 2001 and April 23, 2001 respectively. For application details, contact the RSS office or the ICPSR Official Representatives at UNT. They are [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#) at the Academic Computing Services (565-3886) and [Dr. Jim Meernik](#) of the department of Political Science (565-4233).

Research and Statistical Support

University of North Texas

SAS Corner

By [Dr. Karl Ho](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

IML Workshop and IMLPlus

Many SAS users may use only a portion of the software for certain area of services. Database programmers use it for data management and data mining; Econometricians focus on SAS' time series modeling and forecasting modules (ETS, STATESPACE), Project managers utilize the system for managing calendars, Gann diagrams and scheduling (CALENDAR, PROJMAN), etc. On top of these, SAS also has extended functionality for application or program development in different directions. These extensions include language systems that allow programmers to develop their own routines or modules to serve specialized needs or research. This article introduces the latest development of one of the SAS languages called Interactive Matrix Language (IML).

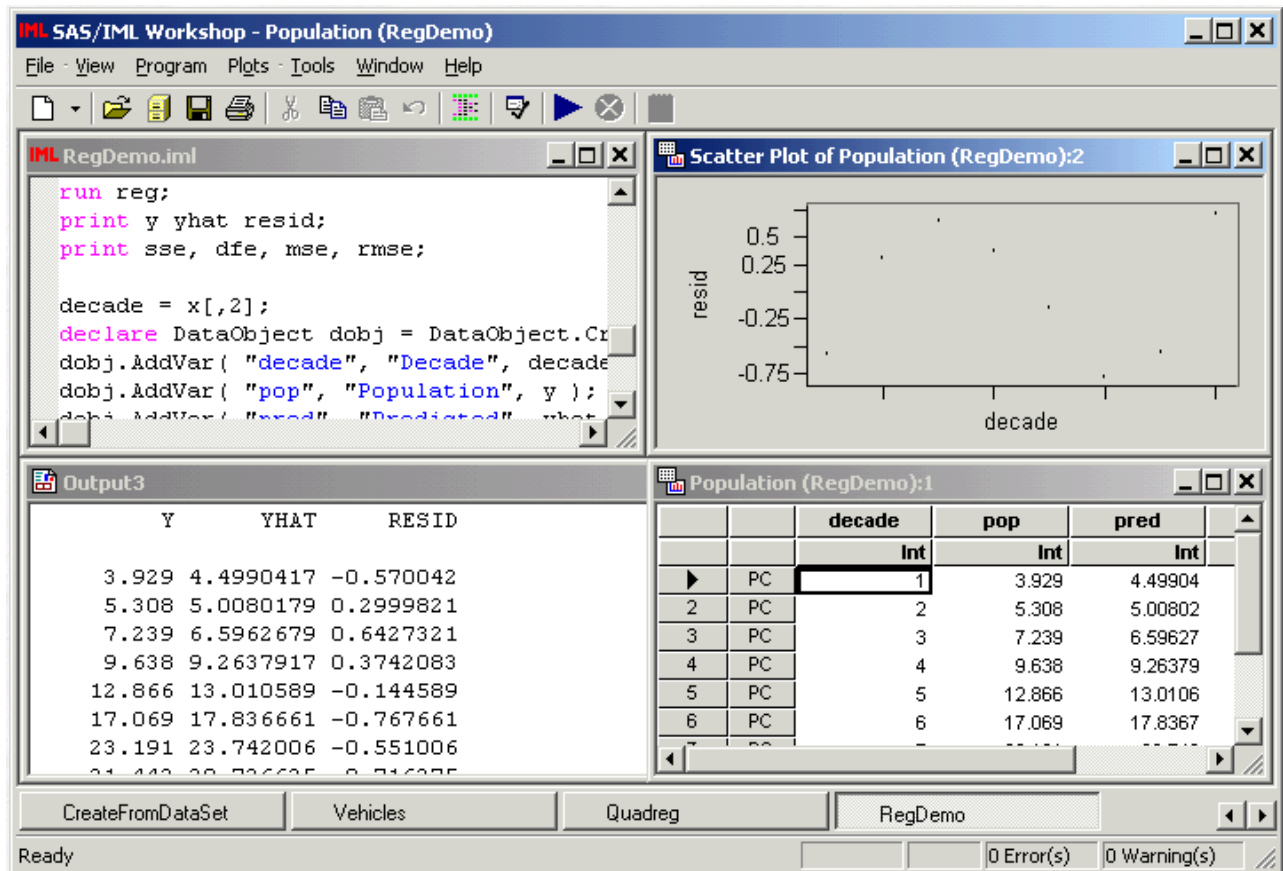
What is IML?

IML is a flexible programming language for programmers, statisticians, and researchers to write routines in an interactive environment to perform specialized statistical analysis and data exploration. It operates on a matrix, a two-dimensional (row-by-column) array of numeric or character values, which renders operations and calculations of mathematical procedures more efficient and flexible. While a series of built-in functions and routines are available, programmers can also write modules and build a library of customized modules. For instance, a professor can use IML to write his own regression model program and create a simulation routine to replicate the regression model with simulated or resampled data.

What is new to IML?

In SAS version 8.x, there are a couple of new additions to SAS/IML: IML Workshop and IML Plus. The former is a standalone GUI environment for programmers to write and execute IML programs, plus explore data with graphical tools such as data tables and charts. The IML workshop is "standalone" in a sense that it is a separate application but not independent. It still depends on a SAS server (an installed version of SAS 8.x on the same machine or a remote host) running in the background. It augments IML with great graphical control and a much better programming environment with debugging facilities.

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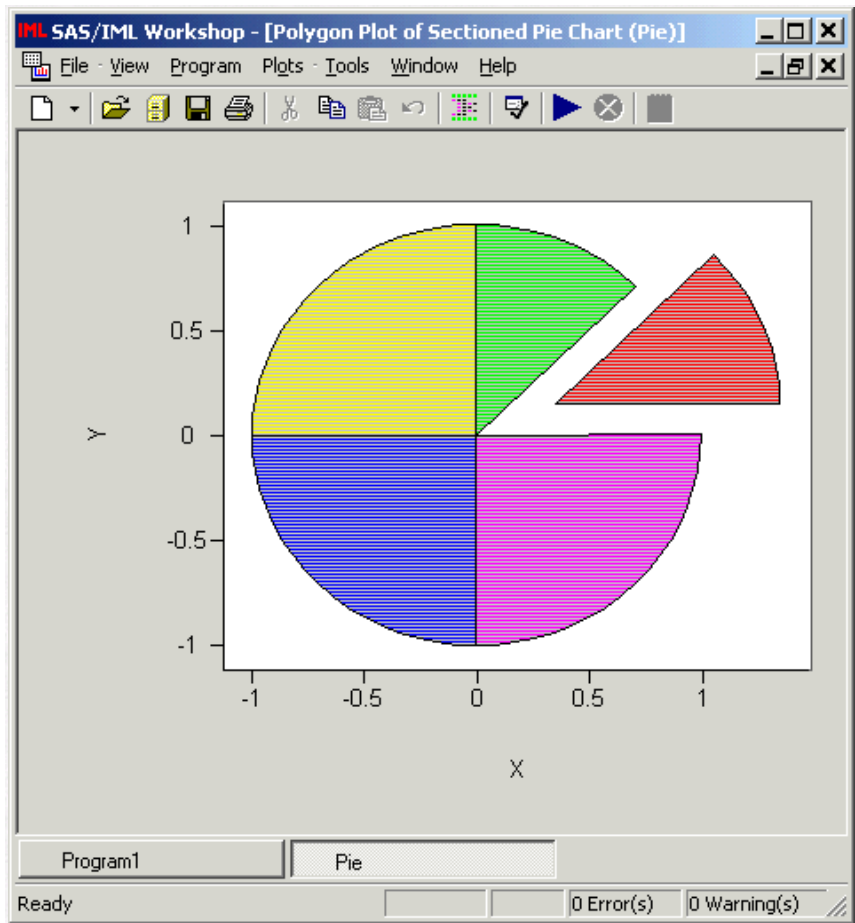


IML workshop is accompanied by the extended IMLPlus language, which allows IML to perform data visualization, access remote data and accommodate object-oriented programming include Java, C, C++ and FORTRAN. In performing the latter, IMLPlus provides a mechanism through which an IMLPlus program can call external user-defined Win32 Dynamic-Link Library (DLL) or a Java class to run within the IML Workshop environment(*). In so doing, it provides a real interface to programs written in other languages to run under one roof.

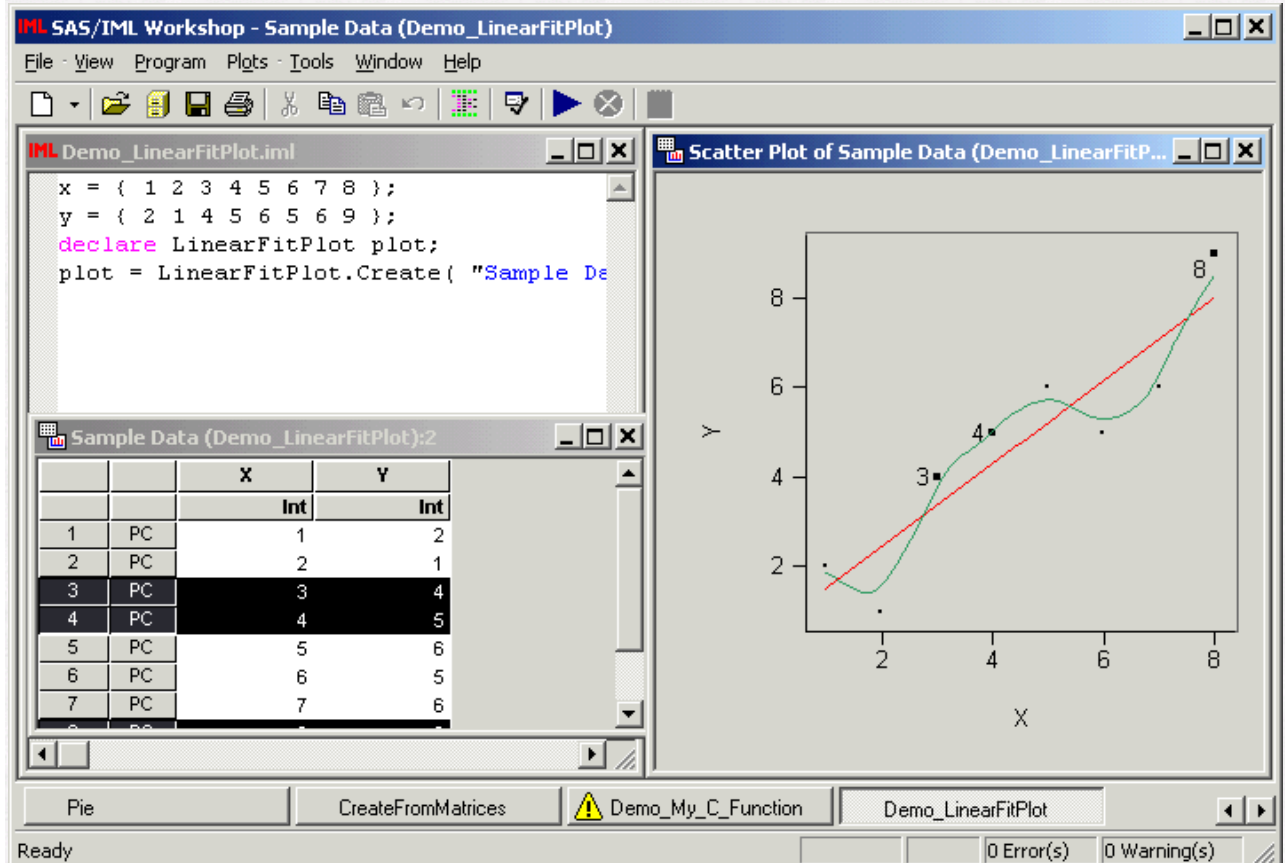
In PROC IML, a programmer can generate static plots and graphs within the syntax. In the IML Workshop environment, you can generate dynamic graphics composed of objects associated to data displayed in a separate worksheet. Chart objects can also be modified for better presentation or model revision.

The following are a few demos and sample programs that illustrate the capability of IML Workshop and IMLPlus:

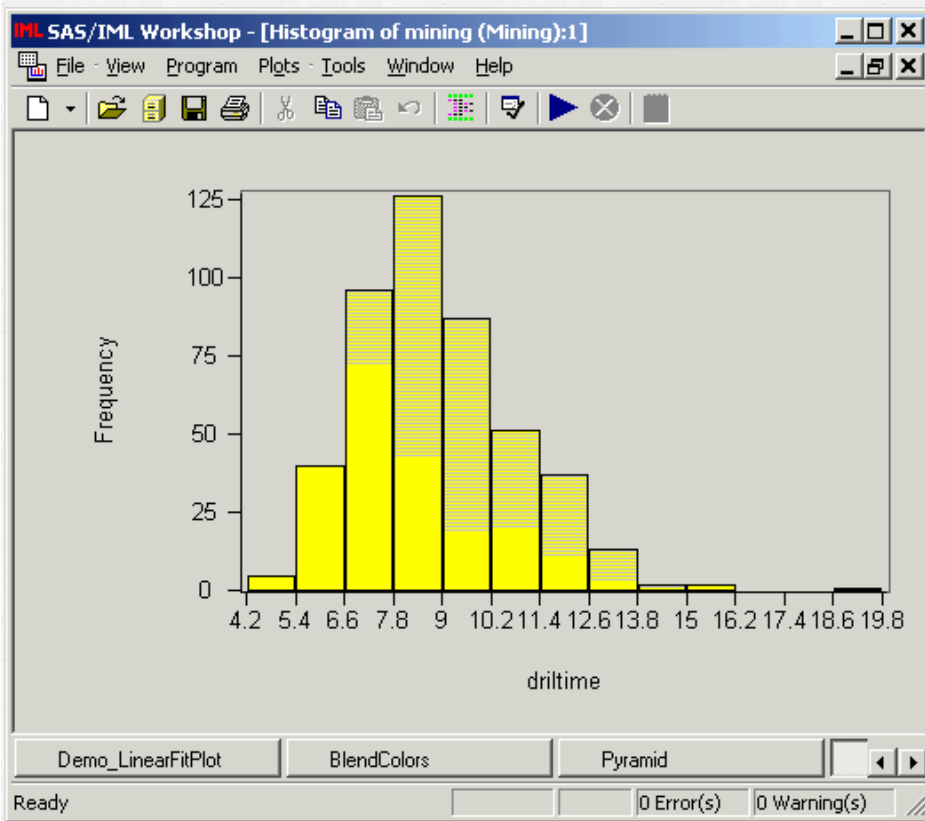
Pie Chart:



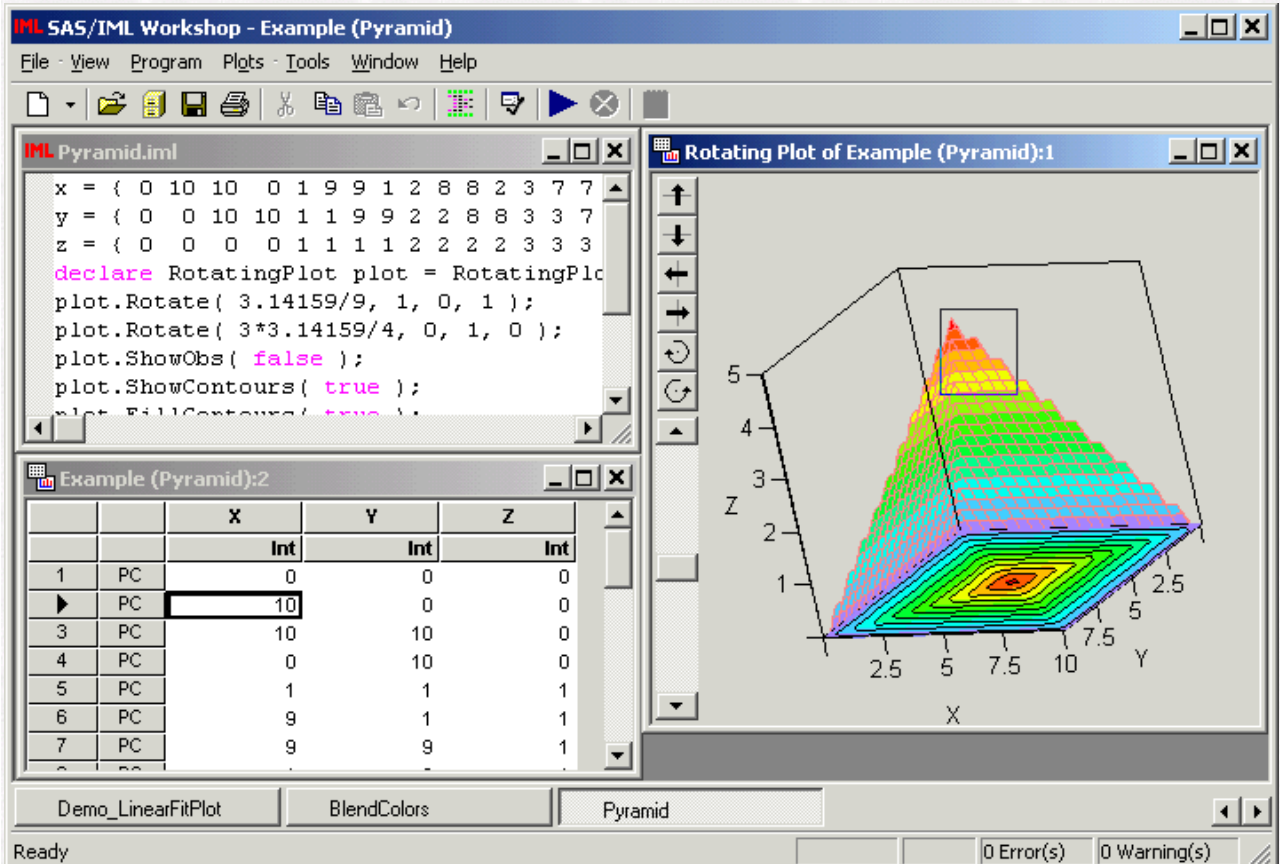
Linear Fit Plot:



Histogram:



Pyramid:



A collection of modules are also provided for programmers to incorporate into their own program. They

include:

- Date Time
- General Purpose
- Graphics
- Math
- Sound
- User Interface
- Wavelets
- Windows Operating System

Latest development

Currently the IML Workshop is still in beta version 1.0 (Beta 4, Build 70). It is available for free downloading at <http://www.sas.com/rnd/app/da/workshop.html>. The site also carries more detailed information and documentation about the software. The requirement for IML Workshop is an installed copy of SAS 8.1 onwards, either on the local or a remote computer. In the upcoming SAS 8.2, IML will incorporate enhanced Wavelets modules and Fractionally Integrated Time Series Analysis (where the integrated process is not restricted to integer values, and estimation of ARFIMA is possible) subroutines. These new features will further add to the toolbox for scientists and researchers to conduct wavelet and time series analysis.

(*) Technically, IML Workshop's client-server architecture executes the functions/routines dynamically back and forth between the background server and front-end client. While generally matrix computations occur on the server, Java-based operations are mostly on the client. External user-defined functions such as C or FORTRAN, however, are run on the client Windows PC.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

We've Arrived at Internet2

Starting on March 30, 2001, the University of North Texas was [connected](#) to [Internet2](#). You didn't notice? Perhaps you've [heard](#) about Internet2 and perhaps you even knew that UNT was a member, but unless you are in the field of computing or networking you may not understand the complete technical significance of the University's network connection to Internet2. Right here, in this column, you can learn the technical significance of Internet2. Here it is: the technical significance of Internet2 is that information sent via the Internet from UNT to any of the other 180 or so member sites of Internet2 (and vice versa) might take slightly less time to be transmitted. The result for you is that the [Stanford University](#) Website might load a lot faster than say [Middle Tennessee State University](#). Wow!

You might be thinking that there doesn't seem to be much immediate benefit to joining Internet2 and you would be right. Internet2 is not so much about what can be done today, but more about what can be done in the future, and as a member institution, UNT now has a share in shaping that future. Just as the NSFNet fostered the development of the Internet in the 1980's-1990's, Internet2 promises to do the same in the new millennium. NSFNet provided a high-speed stable core network for universities and research institutions in the U.S. The availability of the network meant that bandwidth was available to support a new class of application which transmitted more than just encoded characters, but was able to deal in multimedia materials such as images, sounds, and even movies. The World Wide Web is the surviving technology of that era and has supported the development of the commercial Internet that, until recently, was so popular with stock market investors.

What is Internet2?

Internet2 is not a data network, but rather a consortium of university, research, government, and corporate partners combining to investigate new uses of networking technology. In particular, the focus is on the efficient use of high-bandwidth networks for a next generation of applications. "High bandwidth" just means the ability to transmit larger amounts of information in a smaller amount of time. This is important for transmitting digital information, since the amount of data to represent that information grows geometrically in relation to the complexity of that information.

For example, to send the word "network" in ASCII encoding requires 7 bytes of information. To send a 50 by 100 pixel picture of the word "network" requires about 625 bytes (for the simplest black and white picture). To send that same picture using a combination of 8 colors, would require about 1900 bytes. To send a digital recording of someone saying the word "network" (about 1 second of sound) requires about 44,000 bytes (CD sampling rate, with 8-bit samples). Combine multiple megapixel (i.e. millions of times larger) color pictures (i.e. a movie) and sound, and you can see that the amount of data being transmitted can grow increasingly and dramatically larger, especially if a high quality level (resolution) of picture and sound is required.

The technical non-details

To participate in Internet2, UNT has [gained access](#) to [Abilene](#) (no relation to the city in Texas), a high-bandwidth backbone network, with multiple gigaPOPs providing access to member institutions. GigaPOP is roughly short for Gigabit network Point Of Presence. A Gigabit network is capable of transmitting one billion bits of information per second. That's roughly 143 million copies of the ASCII representation of the word "network" per second (a bit faster than I can read). UNT's GigaPOP is run by the Alliance for Higher Education and supports a 155 Megabit per second connection to Abilene. We attach to AHE with a 45 Megabit per second connection. The campus network runs at roughly 100 Megabits per second.

To put this in understandable terms, imagine the campus network as a two-lane (in each direction) highway. The road to the GigaPOP is a one-lane highway. From the GigaPOP to Abilene (the network) is a 3-lane highway, and Abilene is (theoretically) a 20 lane highway. If the speed limit of the highway is 60 miles per hour (and everybody obeys), then the maximum speed of a car on the highway is 60 miles per hour, whether it is a 1-lane or a 20-lane highway. So, the shortest amount of time for an individual car going from Texas to California is the distance divided by the maximum speed. A 20-lane highway, however, can carry a lot more cars at the same time. (Networking professionals can stop cringing now and realize that this has been a rough analogy to put this bandwidth stuff in terms that an average person can understand.)

In network terms, information is carried in "packets" (cars). A packet is just a portion of the information to be transmitted over the network. An E-mail message might be split into a number of packets and those packets would be transmitted via the network (highway) and reassembled by the receiving E-mail program. Sending a movie over the Internet requires transmission of many more packets than would a standard E-mail message which consists mainly of ASCII encoded text.

What will we learn from Internet2?

Some of the questions to be answered via high-speed networking research include problems similar to managing a 20-lane highway: with so many cars, how do you ensure that all have the same chance to reach their destination and that some, like fire trucks and ambulances, can have the priority to get through first; with so many packets, how do you ensure that all packets will have the same chance to reach their destination and that some, like that remote controlled surgery application, can have priority to get through first.

The above is just one of the issues being investigated via Internet2. This is generally referred to as Quality of Service (QoS), and seeks to provide the ability to ensure that a minimum level of service can be provided for a particular application. You may notice that if you are downloading a file or viewing an online video clip, the rate of the data transfer may vary, sometimes causing your video clip to "jump" or drop frames. This is caused by varying amounts of data competing for the network. QoS would ensure at least a minimum but constant rate of data transfer for a specific application.

Some of the other [areas of investigation](#) include network multicast, which allows for a one-to-many broadcast method of information transfer, rather than the many-to-many method used by current applications such as Realvideo. Another is use of IPv6, which is the next generation of the Internet protocol (the "IP" in TCP/IP) used to transmit information. Additionally, there are groups investigating network measurement, routing, security, and other issues.

The above is all important, but what will really allow the network to make a change in how we educate, do business, or live our lives is new and creative uses of the technology being

developed. One example is the performance of an [opera](#) in which the performers were in New York City and Troy, New York, and simultaneously performed with video and sound being transmitted via Internet2. What we may see develop from high-bandwidth networks is a new concept of "telepresence". Imagine instead of a small video conference window on your computer screen, you saw the simulated three dimensional image of a person speaking to you from across the country or around the world. The technology is already being developed.

It's up to you...

We've got the network and now we need to figure out how to use it. There is potential for research in almost any field of interest which involves communication. The most potential exists in applications which would connect people at different Internet2 member sites. Imagine what you can do not just with improved communication but a whole new style of communication. If it can be digitized it can be transferred over the network. With enough bandwidth and QoS, simultaneity is guaranteed.

Internet2 is a technology in search of a "killer application." In the early days of wide-area networking, it was E-mail. The obvious second generation "killer app" is the World Wide Web. What's the next killer app? Start inventing now.

If you're a regular *Benchmarks Online* reader, I sure hope you have *some* recollection about our membership in Internet2. We have written about it over the past few years, including in this column [last month](#) [the final two paragraphs]. We [announced](#) UNT's decision to join Internet2 in January of 1999 and discussed it again in February in "[Campus Computing News](#)" and "[The Network Connection](#)." Sometimes Internet2 is referred to as Internet 2 or Internet II, but the [official](#) moniker appears to be "Internet2," or "I2" for short, now. -- Ed.

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List of the Month

Each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s).

TipWorld's "Cool Web Site of the Day"

If you visit the TipWorld homepage, <http://www.topica.com/tipworld/>, you will find a long list of daily and weekly newsletters that you can subscribe to, at no cost, and will be sent to you via E-mail. One of these is the "Cool Web Site of the Day." The sites they choose won't always be of interest to you, of course, but they do manage to uncover some really good sources of information and/or entertainment. Below are some recent examples of sites and the explanations that accompany them. If you like these, visit the TipWorld [site](#) and subscribe the the newsletter. It is listed under the "Internet" heading. You can also choose to subscribe to other newsletters at the same time, if you like.

- **INTERACTIVE STAR CHART** - 04/12/2001 by Jim Welp

<http://www.mystarslive.com/>

When you look up into the night sky, do you see a bunch of blinking lights and wonder what they are? Well, wonder no more. The Interactive Star Chart at MyStarsLive.com is a fantastic resource for amateur astronomers and just plain ol' stargazers. When you visit the site, all you have to do is choose your location, time, and view, and MyStarsLive will generate a star map of the skies above your home. The chart identifies stars, planets, constellations, and galaxies and even warns you about upcoming events like eclipses, asteroids, and meteor showers. Don't wish upon a falling star without it!

- **THE ARCHIVE OF MISHEARD LYRICS** - 04/11/2001 by Jim Welp

<http://www.kissthisguy.com>

What do you get when you cross a generation of drug-addled musicians slurring their convoluted lyrics at mind-numbing decibels to a generation of drug-addled fans striving to understand the meaning? The Archive of Misheard Lyrics, that's what. They're all here, from "There's a Bathroom on the Right," to "Excuse Me While I Kiss This Guy," to "I Fight With Dorothy and Dorothy Always Wins." If you don't find this site a hilarious trip down memory lane, well, you probably blew out your memory in addition to your hearing.

- **THE OFFICIAL US TIME CLOCK** - 04/09/2001 by Jim Welp

<http://www.time.gov/>

I believe it was Tom Robbins who said, "Time was only invented to keep everything from happening at once." Or something like that. Whatever the quote, you have to agree time is a pretty helpful feature. And if you're going to pay attention to the time, you might as well be accurate. At The

Official US Time Clock Web site, you'll find a giant Java-animated clock with the current time as agreed upon by the United States Department of Commerce, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the US Naval Observatory. For you skeptics out there who reckon that if three gummint agencies come up with the time, it's probably half past 33 o'clock, listen to this modest claim: "The time maintained ... should never differ by more than 0.0000001 seconds from Coordinated Universal Time." So if you have a friend who's routinely late by more than 0.0000001 seconds, forward him or her this note and there will be NO more excuses!

- **INTERNET ANAGRAM SERVER** - 04/06/2001 by Jim Welp

<http://www.wordsmith.org/anagram/index.html>

Obese cow lit. Bite close ow! Bet cool we is. Web coot isle. What in blazes am I going on about? Sadly, those are all anagrams for "Cool Web Site." And did I figure that out by wasting countless hours rearranging the letters in this newsletter's name? No I did not. I found that out by wasting countless hours at the Internet Anagram Server. This site is a hoot for word fans. Just type in a word or string of words and the server spits out perfect anagrams. Once you're done rearranging the letters in the names of your loved ones, be sure to check out the "Hall of Fame," where you'll learn that Elvis = Lives, Evangelist = Evil's Agent, and Clothespins = So Let's Pinch.

- **CALENDAR ZONE** - 03/29/2001

<http://www.calendarzone.com/>

Quick, what day is today? Cheater--you peeked at your computer display for the answer. Anyone who has ever gone on a prolonged vacation can vouch for how difficult it is to keep track of the days without constant graphic reminders. Calendar Zone will make sure you always have the right calendar to match your interests, lifestyle, or mood.

How about a bioregional calendar for the New Ager in you? There are historical, millennial, cultural, and even military calendars to spice up the ways you track time. There are calendar quotes and poetry and even a recipe for calzone--just don't ask me why.

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What's up with WebCT @ UNT?

By [Austin Laird](#), Distance Learning Administrator

Central Web Support is currently in the process of migrating all UNT WebCT courses to WebCT version 3.1. Our goal is to have all WebCT courses moved to the new server by the beginning of the fall 2001 semester. Check out the home of the new server at <http://webct.unt.edu>

What's new in WebCT 3?

In general, the WebCT 3 user interface is more intuitive and user friendly than previous versions have been. A left navigation is provided that can be modified by the instructor to give students instant and constant access to important tools like Email or Bulletin Board. Also, along the top of the screen, there is an audit trail that WebCT likes to call 'bread crumbs' (apparently WebCT cites Hansel and Gretel as an influence). This comes in handy when you need to go back a step or retrace the path you have taken.

MyWebCT

The biggest new feature for users is MyWebCT. MyWebCT, which was introduced in WebCT version 2, is the new single logon method for WebCT that gives it more of a portal feel. When you logon to MyWebCT you are presented with a listing of all the courses that you are registered for as a student, or are designing as an instructor. This is a great improvement over version 1.3, where users might have to remember several passwords and would have to logon separately to their courses. In MyWebCT, the user can change their password and read announcements about the WebCT system. MyWebCT also notifies you when you have new email or postings to read in a particular course.

Logon hint

Another great improvement, also located in MyWebCT, is the 'Logon Hint'. In MyWebCT you can set a logon hint question specific to you (e.g. What is you mother's maiden name? What is your dog's name?) that you will be asked when you forget your password. Provided you can remember the answer you set, the WebCT system will then email you a new password. You will then be able to logon and change your password to whatever you would like. The first time you logon to MyWebCT, set your Logon Hint. Then if and when you forget your password, go to <http://webct.unt.edu> and click 'Forgot your Password?'

What is the future of WebCT @ UNT?

Sometime in the not too distant future we will be upgrading to WebCT 3.5 Campus Edition.

The upgrade will not bring a lot of changes to the user interface, but will provide some great server side enhancements. We will be able to load balance our server to provide more stability and performance for our users. We will also be able to integrate WebCT with LDAP authentication here at UNT, which will allow us to use the same authentication for WebCT as is used for EagleMail. Now if I can just get WebCT to integrate Solitaire into MyWebCT...

For more information ...

On getting a WebCT course: Contact the Center for Distributed Learning at webct@unt.edu or <http://www.unt.edu/cdl>

On WebCT: <http://www.webct.com>

On this article: austinl@unt.edu

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

ACS Short Courses are over for the semester, but resume this summer. Please consult the [Short Courses](#) page to see the sorts of courses that will likely be offered.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#).

Andrew McGregor, Messaging Support Specialist (amcgregor@unt.edu) 940-369-7688 is currently offering monthly **Basic GroupWise** (BGW) and **Document Management** (DM) Classes. You can Sign up [on-line](#), or you can send an mail to [Lauren Sutherland](#) in Human Resources to sign up. Just remember to include your name and the class you would like to attend. All classes are from 10:00 to 12:00 in ESSC room 152. Following is the list of classes:

Class	Date
DM	Monday, April 23
BGW	Tuesday, May 1
DM	Tuesday, May 22
BGW	Friday, June 15
DM	Tuesday, June 26
BGW	Tuesday, July 24
DM	Wednesday, July 25
BGW	Friday, August 17
DM	Tuesday, August 14

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm The center also offers a "Brown Bag" series which meets for lunch the first Thursday of each month at Noon in ISB

204. The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. More information on these activities can be found at the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) Web site.

UNT Libraries'

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab has also offered free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage and information architecture in the past. For more information see <http://www.library.unt.edu/media/services.htm#Distributed>.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the [Campus-Wide Networks](#) division of the Computing Center. Check the CWN site to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

These are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to http://www.unt.edu/ccecm/cont_ed/Minicourse/Courses/UNT_Minicourse_Page.htm.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training ([CBT](#)) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. There are also handouts for computer training on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95 /98/NT
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97 (Creating a Slide Show)
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)

•

[StudyWeb](#)

AND, the [award winning](#) Introduction to Excel 97

Adobe Acrobat Reader Format only for the following:

- Introduction to Microsoft Word 2000

- Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2000
- Creating a Slide Show with PowerPoint 2000
- Using Netscape Communicator & the UNT Home Page

Use the Internet to search for answers to Microsoft Office problems. See <http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/office/> December 1999's "[List of the Month](#)" offers links to free Microsoft Word and Excel information also.

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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary

IRC Regular and Ex-officio Voting Members: Judith Adkison, College of Education; Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Craig Berry, School of Visual Arts; Sue Byron, Faculty Senate; Bobby Carter, UNT Health Science Center; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; VACANT, Student Association, Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Standards and Cooperation Program Group; Abraham John, Student Affairs; VACANT, Graduate Student Council; VACANT, University Planning Council; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services, GALMAC; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group (Acting Chair); Paul Schlieve, Communications Program Group; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Philip Turner, School of Library and Information Science and University Planning Council (Chair, IRC);; Virginia Wheelless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** VACANT, Telecommunications; Bill Buntain, Computing Center Networking; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Joel Lanpher, UNT Health Science Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 10/2000]

March 13, 2001

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIR: PHILIP TURNER, DON GROSE, JON NELSON, JIM CURRY, PAUL SCHLIEVE, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, MARK RORVIG, JUDITH ADKISON, JENNY JOPLING, RAMU MUTHIAH, MARGARET HUDNALL, PATRICK PLUSCHT, KATHLEEN SWIGGER, JONEEL HARRIS, ROBERT NIMOCKS, BOBBY CARTER, MIKE IMPSON, DONNA ASHER, JIM CURRY
NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: RICHARD HARRIS, COY HOGGARD, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, BILL BUNTAİN, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** GINNY ANDERSON, JOHN WINDSOR, JOEL LANPHEAR, CRAIG BERRY, ALLEN LIVINGSTON, VIRGINIA WHEELLESS **GUESTS:** JAMES STRAWN, BETTY TOMBOULIAN, JOHN HOOPER

The minutes of the January 16, 2001 IRC meeting were approved as distributed. There was no Information Resources Steering Committee meeting in February; therefore, there was no report.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that they have met and talked about the following issues: 1) the desire to improve the process by which new hires to the University (faculty and staff) obtain computing services; and 2) the investigation of wireless local area network technologies on campus. Maurice reported having attended the EduTex conference recently where he observed the wireless operation there. Doug Jackson of UT Dallas made a presentation on wireless technology; so

Maurice has invited him to come to the DCSMT meeting on Friday, March 16 to give the committee a brief overview of what UTD is doing.

Instruction Program Group

Jenny Jopling reported for the Instruction Program Group that they have met electronically. At this time they are awaiting a response from Counseling & Testing as to what their responsibility might be in the new computer-based testing facility. Jenny also reported to Suzanne LaBrecque that the issue of staffing this new facility is not being addressed by the Gateway Center committee and stated that she is preparing a report for Dr. LaBrecque.

The Program Group is continuing to look at internet access in terms of long-term strategy in order to manage the growth of that resource. Paul stated that one of their first tasks will be to find out how the bandwidth is being used, by whom, and to determine what tools are available for managing it.

Discussion followed during which it was mentioned that Napster appears to be using a great deal of the available bandwidth, and the Housing Dept. has been limited as far as the amount of bandwidth that will be available to the dorms. Bill Buntain added that restricting the dorms to a certain percentage of bandwidth was a business decision by the Housing Dept. because the dorms pay for their share and then pass that cost on to the room rates of the residents.

It was also mentioned that a hardware/software solution called PacketShaper is being evaluated which seems to be able to monitor and control bandwidth usage. Patrick Pluscht mentioned that desktop video-conferencing capability, that is now available to everyone, is a potential bandwidth hog, whether it is used for sanctioned or non-sanctioned activities.

Research Program Group

Mark Rorvig reported for the Research Program Group that they would like to write a computer and information science/engineering science research infrastructure grant so that if awarded UNT could focus more on providing more capacity for research than on limiting the use of bandwidth.

Dr. Turner mentioned an article in EDUCAUSE in the February issue called "The Hybrid Campus." The article predicts what a campus will look like five years from now in terms of telecommunications infrastructure. It observes that as the move is made toward a more distributed environment, funding will have to be shifted from buildings, electricity and everything that is necessary for a campus environment into supporting teaching in a distributed environment. Dr. Turner stated that he thinks that the UNT administration believes this but they must be assured along the way that the development in that direction is not frivolous.

In response to a question by Patrick Pluscht, it was stated that the cost of PacketShaper is \$24,000.00 and approximately \$2,400.00 per year for maintenance. It was also explained that the PacketShaper product is faster than the internet connection so there should be no interference with or slow down of the IP Video speed.

Administration Program Group

Joneel Harris reported for the Administration Program Group that a spreadsheet is being prepared to post on the Web so that the University community can see the project charge as

well as the list of requirements for the proposed Enterprise Information System. A contract with NCHEMS has been drafted that would provide a consultant to work with the project teams as they go through this process. Chuck Thomas, who has worked on a consulting contract at UNT before, would be the consultant for this project. The Program Group has also looked into the purchasing requirements, and it has been determined that if there are at least 3 vendors, that are Qualified Information Systems Vendors, a Request for Offer procedure can be used which will incorporate the compiled requirements document, as opposed to a more formal Request for Quote. The committee is also looking at the possibility of using an outside consultant in contract negotiations. Joneel Harris introduced John Hooper, who is developing the Web site that will contain information for the UNT community to review.

In response to a question from Kathleen Swigger, Joneel responded to assure everyone that the proposed EIS will not be just an administrative system. Data warehousing, and easy access to data for use by faculty is a high priority in the planning of this new system. Joneel stated that Margaret Hudnell is one of the faculty representatives on the planning group.

Standards & Cooperation Program Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Standards & Cooperation Program Group that they are working on security procedures and standards policies. They hope to have a draft of the new policies by the May meeting.

Distributed Learning Team

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Distributed Learning Team that at their meeting on Thursday, March 15, they will discuss the WebCT server upgrade. The Center for Distributed Learning is also doing some work on refurbishing course Web sites so that students can have audio and video clips about a course and its instructor, in an effort to better market these courses. They hope to have these improvements completed in time for Fall registration. In addition, the TIF DI4 grants were awarded on Friday, and UNT did not receive the \$650,000 one that Patrick applied for, which would have provided more video-conferencing between UNT and Univ. of Houston.

Other Business

Don Grose provided information regarding the new Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), which is a proposed state contract law developed to regulate transactions in intangible goods such as computer software, online databases and other information products in digital form. The law has been introduced into the Texas Senate, and it is being opposed by Libraries, consumer protection groups, and a number of businesses. If approved, the new law would override a lot of the copyright laws. Dr. Grose stated that Melody Kelly is planning to bring up a Web site that will keep the University community informed of this law and its progression through the legislature.

Kathleen Swigger commented about a problem she and other faculty have experienced in using classrooms in the Business Administration building, which are supported by COBA computing support, rather than the central Classroom Support Services. It was explained that College of Business purchased the equipment in the classrooms in their building and support those classrooms because of that. Jim Curry commented that Microcomputer Maintenance will be providing new equipment for those classrooms as it is replaced and in the future will provide the classroom support for them.

Dr. Leatherbury also announced that 20 Teaching with Technology grant applications have been received; a committee has been formed to review them, and a decision will be made in mid April.

Richard Harris reported that the connections for Internet2 are in place; however, significant router software maintenance is scheduled to be done during Spring Break, so after the maintenance is completed, they will bring up the Internet2 connection, with the hope that Internet2 will be in production the week after Spring Break. Richard also announced that there will be an Internet2 Day on April 6, about which there will be announcements later.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. From time to time there are planned exceptions to this schedule. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Scott Windham**, Communications Analyst, Data Communications.
- **Joey Cranmore**, Communications Analyst, Data Communications.
- **Shannon Peevey**, Programmer Analyst, Central Web Support.
- **Krysti Ripaldi**, Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Ken Hoskins**, Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).

Changes

Pat Evans is now working on the Call Tracking Administration Team (Remedy) although he will continue to perform some duties related to his former position as Assistant Manager of the Computing Center HelpDesk. His new office is in ISB 134E.

The following people have recently changed the locations of their offices within Computing Center facilities:

- General Data Systems: Philip Buhler moved to MH 230 and George Williams moved to MH 228.
- Security and Administration: Charlotte Russell moved to ISB 244.
- Student Records Data Systems: Robert Jones moved to MH 219.

Awards, Recognition

- **Rory Rivoire**, Data Communications Analyst, was recognized as a Soaring Eagle in the April 2001 issue of the *Human Resources Newsletter*. He was recognized for his "extensive problem solving on an inventory issue."
- **The Campus Wide Networks Computing Team**, a division of Network and Communications Services, was honored as an outstanding department at the Staff Sack Lunch on February 28.
- **Don Swatloski**, Team Leader, Database/Central Programming Support, recently celebrated his 30th anniversary with UNT.
- **Patricia Smith**, Data Entry Operator, recently celebrated her 5th anniversary with UNT.



Campus Computing News

By [Dr. Maurice Leatherbury](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing

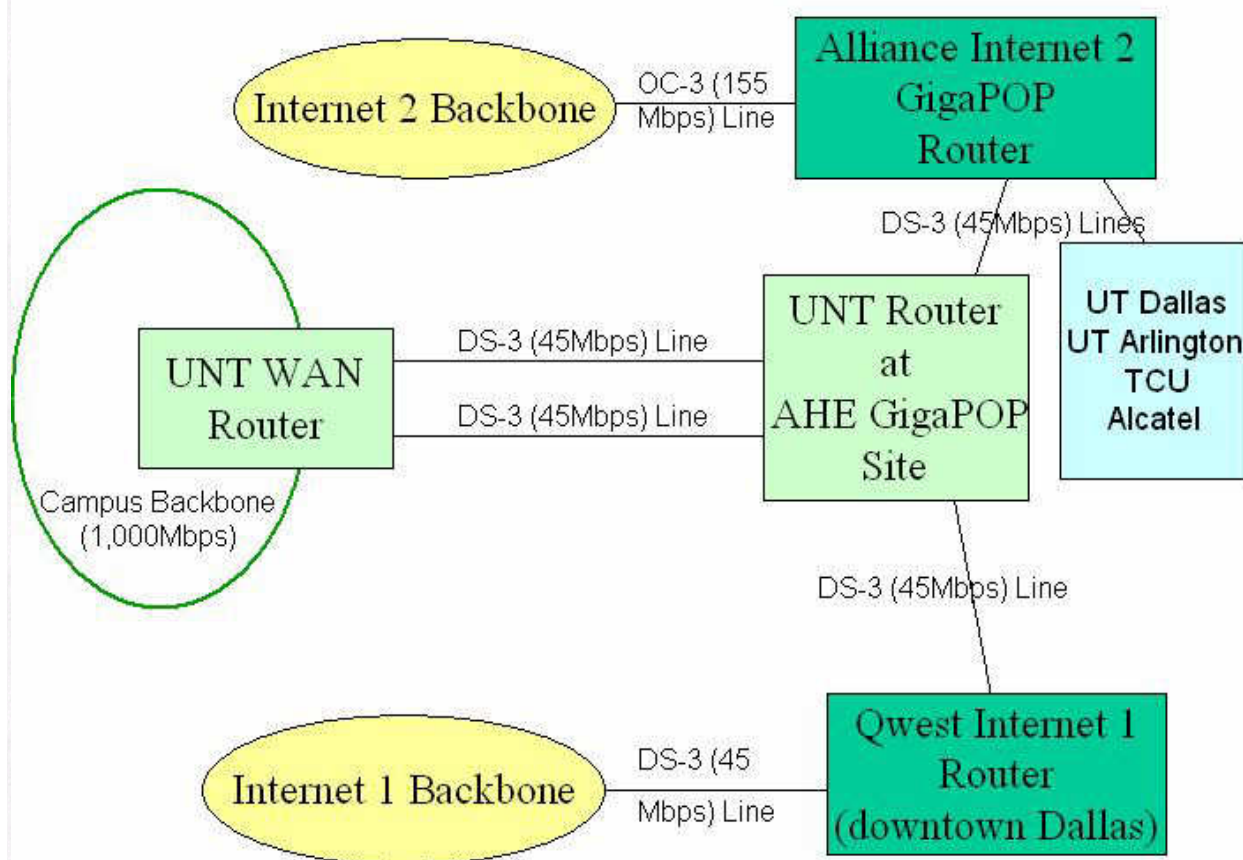
Internet2 Connection Established

Early this month UNT got connected to Internet 2 (see this [article](#) to find out more about what I2 is and does.) You may be wondering how you can actually use Internet 2 ("I2") and what you have to do to get connected to that backbone network. This article is a short description of the technology and the procedure you follow to use Internet2.

Connecting to Internet2

Here's the instructions on getting connected to Internet 2 from your campus machine: simply use your Web browser (or FTP client, etc.) to connect to any Internet 2 institution! In other words, you don't have to do anything special at all to use the capabilities of the new high-speed academic network. So if you're browsing UT Austin's Website, or transferring files from the University of Illinois, you're using I2 even though you won't be aware of that fact.

The diagram below illustrates the routes that various Internet packets take from UNT's campus to either an I1 or I2 site:



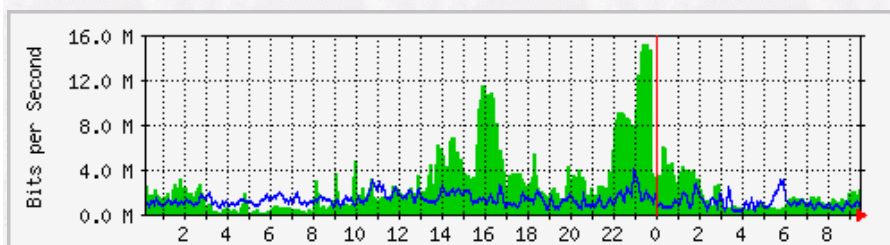
All network-attached machines on UNT's campus share the campus backbone, which is connected to our Wide Area Network router. When you use Netscape or Internet Explorer to browse an off-campus site, the WAN router detects that your message has to go off campus, so it sends your packets (the data stream from your browser request, for example) over one of two 45 megabit-per-second lines, depending upon which one is less busy at the time, to a similar router at the Alliance for Higher Education site in Richardson where UNT

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maintains some data communications equipment. That router in turn determines whether your packets have to go to an Internet1 site (e.g., microsoft.com) or to an Internet2 site (utexas.edu or harvard.edu, etc.)

If the destination is an Internet2 site, the router directs the traffic to yet another router located in the same building at the AHE, and it sends the packets out to the I2 backbone for delivery to their ultimate destination. The University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Christian University, and Alcatel USA Inc. are also attached to the I2 router. If your packets go to an Internet1 site, UNT's router at the AHE site passes them to a Qwest Internet1 backbone router located in a building in downtown Dallas, which then sends them on their way.

UNT's use of our Internet2 connection is slowly increasing and will likely increase even more as researchers begin to take advantage of this high-capacity network. The chart below shows the usage over a 34-hour period ending at 10:00 a.m. on April 19th (the blue line is outgoing traffic and the green one is incoming:)



Data communications are increasingly critical to the functioning of universities because without adequate links faculty, staff and students wouldn't be able to send E-mail, find information on the Web, view online courses from off campus, etc. Internet2 increases our capability to exchange data and information within the American academic community and our participation in that network puts us squarely in the mainstream of research universities.

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Getting Help at the Helpdesk

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

If you click on "Help" from one of the official pages off the main UNT Website, you will be taken to a [page](#) that tells you how to get help on a variety of things. The first item listed there is "Computing Center Helpdesk," followed by the statement: **The place to go for help with anything related to computing at UNT.** That statement is worth remembering.

What's the best way to contact the Helpdesk?

There are several ways to get help at the Helpdesk. Choose the method that makes the most sense for you and the type of problem you have. If possible, it is always a good idea to see if your question has been answered before calling or mailing the staff, however. That can be done by checking the Helpdesk Webpage, method #1.

1. Access the [Helpdesk Webpage](#) and attempt to find an answer to your problem there. FAQs and other information are readily available from that page.
2. Call the Helpdesk at (940) 565-2324 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday.
3. Send E-mail to helpdesk@unt.edu
4. Come by the Helpdesk in person, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday and between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday. The Helpdesk is [located](#) in the Computing Center and is the main access point to that facility for most people. It is in the Information Science Building, ISB 119, directly across from the Science Library. You need to enter the main doors of the building for direct access to the Helpdesk.

If you visit the Helpdesk in person you will find that they have a series of handouts available for people to take with them for future reference. Many of these documents are available online, also, most of them accessible from the FAQ section. Three recent documents that have been created may be of interest to you. Right now they are only available in print form but should be up on the Web soon. The documents are:

- *PPP/Dial-up for Windows ME Installation Instructions*
- *PPP/Dial-up for Windows 2000 Professional Instructions*
- *Smartforce Courseware Listing* (see ["The Force is almost with us!"](#) in this issue for more information .)

What can I do to make the HelpDesk's job easier?

According to one of their [FAQs](#): there are some things that you can do that may seem rather insignificant to you, but could go a long, long way towards making our jobs easier and us happier (and a happy consultant is a helpful consultant!):

1. We are using a call tracking system, called REMEDY, and will need to ask questions to make sure we have the correct person. We will need your UNT ID number, and the preferred phone number to contact you.
2. Know the system you are working on, the operating system and version - WIN/95, WIN 3.1, Mac 7.5, Mac 8.0 3., [etc.]
3. Remember your User ID. Remember your password. Protect your password. Know at least the name of the system you have an account on. And please, keep multiple backups of all your really important files.

Happy Computing. . .

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Loads O'Links

Compiled by [Claudia Lynch](#), Benchmarks Online Editor

Once a year or so we like to highlight UNT Web sites that are of interest to the campus community but may have escaped your detection. The last time we printed such a list was in [March](#) of 2000. Listed below are some sites/pages that you may have missed. Click [here](#) if you would like to skip to the faculty/staff-related links and click [here](#) if you would like to skip to the student-related links.

General Links, New (at least to us) since last year:

- [VolUNTeer Center](#) -- This organization can help you get volunteers for events you coordinate or can connect you with campus/community resources if you would like to be a volunteer.
- **Remote Library Assistance** -- The UNT Libraries offer remote research assistance to UNT students, faculty, and staff. Online help is available through both the Online Reference Help Desk and through the Libraries' E-mail Reference service (see below). Both of these services are especially useful to distributed and distance education students. The Libraries have also added a toll-free phone number to make access easier. Call (877) 872-0264 during regular Willis Library Reference Desk [hours](#).

The [Online Reference Help Desk](#) is a virtual help desk and is available on the Internet. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

The UNT Libraries also offers an [E-mail Reference service](#). E-mail Reference can be used to ask short, factual questions. A reply will be sent within 24 to 48 hours, excluding weekends or holidays.

- [Office of Women's Studies](#) -- "This multi-disciplinary field of study attracts intensely committed faculty and students, who sustain support for women's studies throughout our campus. Over thirty faculty members from diverse academic departments regularly teach courses examining women's roles, activities, and experiences throughout history and across cultures."
- [UNT Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#) -- "For some documents, access has been restricted to the University of North Texas campus at the request of the author."
- [The Center for Public Service](#) -- "Sponsors and promotes service programs, teaching curriculum and applied research that heighten the social, environmental and economic sustainability of communities in Denton, the state of Texas, Mexico and beyond."
- [The Ally Program](#) -- "An ally is simply a person who has information, sensitivity and understanding towards GLBT issues. The ally program plaque immediately identifies allies to university members, which is

important, because many GLBT persons are fearful that simply requesting a list of allies through university channels would cause them to disclose their orientation, and they may not be comfortable doing so. The ally program plaque displayed in offices and work areas identifies people with GLBT information, caring attitudes for all persons, and signifies confidentiality as allowed by UNT policy."

- [Division of Equality and Diversity](#) -- "The Division of Equity and Diversity is committed to executing the mission of the University as it relates to the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students. The primary goal of the division is to develop a supportive environment for a culturally diverse faculty, staff and student body. Additionally, the division handles allegations regarding discrimination and sexual harassment. The Division of Equity and Diversity provides a safe zone for all."

General Links, Oldies but goodies:

- [UNT News and Events](#) -- This is the UNT News Service page. Things posted here are frequently associated with sources of funding, big expenditures, large gifts etc. Also covered are events that will be of interest beyond the Denton campus.
- [Events Calendar](#) -- Dates for major Metroplex and university-wide events are listed here. The purpose of this site is to aid you in planning an event so that it won't be conflicting with other events on campus or the Metroplex. Metroplex events include miscellaneous events in Denton, Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, Meyerson Center in Dallas, Texas Motor Speedway and Majestic Theatre in Dallas.
- [University of North Texas Press](#) -- According to their Web page, the UNT Press has over 140 titles currently in print, with special emphasis in the areas of Texana, folklore, and multiculturalism. Various series are also published, including the Vassar Miller Prize in Poetry, and Publications of the Texas Folklore Society.
- [Printing Services and Copy Centers](#) -- Everything you need to know about the services available from these departments can be found from this page. Did you know that you can send things to be copied via GroupWise, the Internet, etc.? They also accept material on 3 1/2" disks and zip disks.
- [Mail Services](#) -- All sorts of information is available at this site for both intra- and inter-campus mail.
- [The Eagle Student Services Center](#) -- See details [below](#).
- [Campus Master Plan](#) -- If you've ever wondered what the future holds for the UNT Denton campus, this site may be able to satisfy your curiosity.
- [UNT System Center at Dallas](#) -- the new center has a new homepage.
- [The Club at College Inn](#) -- Yum! View the menu and reserve a table from this site.

Faculty/Staff Related Links, New (at least to us) since last year:

- Employees Assistance Program ([EAP](#)) -- EAP is a benefit offered to all regular (retirement-eligible) faculty and staff. EAP is a short-term counseling & referral program. It provides you (or your dependents) with assessment & referral services for up to 6 counseling sessions per problem event/per year. EAP also offers Laws access and Helpnet.
- [UNT Staff Council](#) -- According to the site, "The UNT Staff Council was established Fall 1999 and comprises 33 members who represent over 1500 staff members. This was the next logical step at UNT to complete its commitment to peer leadership. UNT already had in place the Student Association representing all students and the Faculty Senate representing all faculty. The Staff Council is now the vehicle for peer leadership among the staff."
- The **Media Library** has a new service available for faculty and full-time staff. You may now book Media Library videos, laser discs, and DVDs from the convenience of your home or office! It's as easy as 1-2-3: search, login, book. All you need is an account. To request a Media Library Account:
 1. Go to the UNT Media Library web site:
<http://www.library.unt.edu/media>
 2. Click on Catalog to search the Media Library catalog and make bookings online.
 3. Click on Booking Options.
 4. Click on Need an Account, Click Here!
 5. Fill out the online form click the submit button.
 6. The Media Library Booking Supervisor will confirm your new account within 48 hours. You will be sent detailed instructions on how to search the catalog and book, extend, or cancel your own media materials.
- **Avesta menus** can be viewed at www.unt.edu/union/avesta.htm
- [Achieving the Vision: UNT in 2015](#) -- If you didn't make the spring forums and/or want to refresh your memory about what was, this is the place.

Faculty/Staff Related Links, Oldies but goodies:

- [Employment Bulletin](#) -- Human Resources keeps this page up-to-date with the latest staff vacancies. There are currently quite a few computer-related positions:
 - COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST IV
 - COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST IV (Vice President for Student Development)
 - COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST III (Vice President for Student Development)
 - PROGRAMMER III (Computing Center)
 - COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST II (Libraries)
 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST II (Computing)

Center)

- [Employees Retirement System of Texas](#) -- Not exactly a UNT link but one that is definitely worth bookmarking if you are in ERS and/or use insurance supplied by UNT.
- [Faculty Senate](#) -- Home of the Faculty Handbook, among other things.
- [Legal Affairs](#) -- Officially called the "Office of the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel," this group states that the aim of their Website is "to provide useful legal information to those we serve and to provide a schedule of legal events offered. We encourage you to explore and use this information site, and to allow this office to be your legal link to the University, the Health Science Center at Fort Worth and our Systems Center in Dallas." Information about the upcoming "Fifth Annual Texas Higher Education Law Conference" is available at this site also.
- [Office of University Planning](#) -- According to their Website, "The purpose of the Office of University Planning is to collect, analyze, maintain, and disseminate information about the university for purposes of planning, decision-making, and the overall successful operation of the institution as a whole, and to facilitate and coordinate the university strategic planning process." The 2000-2001 Fact Book is located at the following URL: www.unt.edu/planning/Fact_Book/Fact_Book_2001/index.html
-

Student Related Links, New (at least to us) since last year:

- **The University of North Texas and Collin County Community College District (CCCCD)** have a Concurrent Admission Agreement which also includes the delivery of selected academic programs/courses via two-way video at their Preston Ridge campus in Frisco. For information on how a CCCCCD student be admitted to the program, call one of CCCCCD Admissions and Records offices:

— Central Park Campus, McKinney, 972-548-6710
 — Spring Creek Campus, Plano, 972-881-5710
 — Preston Ridge Campus, Frisco, 972-377-1710

For current and future course listings, see:

<http://courses.unt.edu/cccd/index.htm>.

- [Music Education](#) -- "The University of North Texas has one of the most highly acclaimed music education programs in the United States."
- [Study Abroad Center](#) -- Find out all the neat places you can visit and work towards your degree at the same time!

Student Related Links, Oldies but goodies:

- [Calendars, Schedules & Catalogs](#) -- Pretty much what the name implies. The current Academic Calendar goes through 2001.
- [Student Employment Services](#) -- Student Employment Services (SES)

provides part-time employment opportunities for currently enrolled students. They also host job fairs and help students get off-campus jobs.

- [Student Health Center](#) -- All kinds of important information is available at this site geared especially to students. There is even an online form for prescription refills.
- [The Eagle Student Services Center](#) -- This Website was launched last year. All of the services located within the building have moved their Web presence to this site or can be reached through this site. That includes the following offices:

Undergraduate Admissions
Graduate School/Admissions
Registrar's Office
Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
Student Accounting and University Cashiering Services
Campus Operators

"My Financial Aid" and "WebReg" can be found on this page. Also, the online Centranet directory is included on the Campus Operators page.

- [Electronic Preparation and Filing of Theses and Dissertations](#) -- The [Toulouse School](#) of Graduate Studies is now requiring that all theses and dissertations be in electronic form.
- [External Funding for Graduate Students](#) -- Although this isn't a UNT-based resource, it is a resource that is supported by The Office of [Postgraduate Fellowships](#). There are over 300 opportunities (conveniently divided into disciplines and areas) available through the courtesy of Cornell University. The categories listed there include:

General
Biological Sciences
Humanities
International Students
Minorities
Physical Sciences
Social Sciences
Summer
Women.

Dr. James Duban, Director of the UNT Office of Postgraduate Fellowships, urges graduate students to consult that Web page, to secure application forms through the E-mail addresses listed there, and to contact him (jduban@unt.edu; Tel.: 940/565-2820) to set up a series of appointments to obtain feedback on application essays.

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The Force is *almost* with us!

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

I am taking a break this month from my General Access Lab feature to share some news about another important aspect of Student Computing Services here at UNT: computer-based training. UNT has for several years offered extensive online training free-of-charge to students, faculty and staff. Provided by Smartforce (formerly CBT Systems), this Web-enabled catalog of courses features training in such topics as Cisco Desktop Protocol Design, Firewall Principles and Internet Security, JavaScript Language Basics, Oracle 8i and Microsoft Office 2000. The quality of self-paced instructional materials is thorough and rigorous enough to provide the training needed for certification in these topics but also easily configurable for the casual user who simply wants to know how to make a better Excel spreadsheet. The Smartforce e-learning company (at www.smartforce.com) is a leader in the area of online computer training making this a valuable free resource provided to the UNT community.

The computing staff at the Willis Library has been administrating this service since its acquisition and I want to publicly thank them for their hard work in this area. Administration duties have been transferred to Academic Computing Services (and yours truly). Several tasks must be completed before this tool is once again available including the installation of upgraded learning modules about new products and the maintenance of user accounts. UNT community members will no longer need to register separately for this service, instead it will be available using their EUIDs. A UNT/Smartforce Website will be created and maintained for ongoing e-learning tips and tools.

I anticipate the Smartforce system being in full production again by the beginning of the Summer I semester [in the meantime, please delete all links to cbt01.library.unt.edu]. Look for updates from me via the Web and E-mail about this valuable learning service. Currently I have a complete list of the new courses which is available as a handout at the Computing Center [Helpdesk](#) in ISB 119. Any additional questions or comments about the Smartforce computer-based training system should be directed to me at ehinkle@unt.edu.

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