

Internet2 on the horizon

(May 23, 2001)

While the University is bringing high-speed and reliable data, video and voice communications to faculty, staff and students via BGsupernet, it is also putting itself in position to join Internet2.

Other campuses that are completely or partially wired for high-performance networking "talk" to each other at very high speed, such as to share real-time video. BGSU's existing low-speed connection to the public Internet does not allow that, but by building BGsupernet and exploring membership in Internet2, the University is essentially looking to extend the boundaries of what will be its own high-speed networking to the 180-plus other universities and research institutions in Internet2.

As a result, research data, video, live broadcasts of seminars, CSPAN and developing events would all become available, as would access to large data repositories (weather, census and astronomy, for example); specialized computing devices such as supercomputers, and specialized instrumentation such as electronic microscopes and remotely controlled telescopes.

Among the benefits for faculty, by extension, would be easy and high-speed video conferencing and the ability to more easily collaborate on research.

Several Ohio institutions, including the University of Cincinnati and Case Western Reserve, Kent State, Ohio State and Ohio universities, are already a part of Internet2. Recreating the partnership among academia, industry and government that fostered the early growth of the Internet, the Internet2 consortium is working to develop and deploy advanced applications and technologies.

One of those applications is I2DV, an initiative aimed at advanced digital video for education and research. In addition to digital video portals and conferencing, I2DV services include live transmission of video-traditional video plus simulations, animations, virtual reality movies, images with audio sound tracks and other types of digital media objects. These are among the possibilities for BGSU as it incorporates digital video into campus life and looks to join Internet2.