CSNET: The Computer + Science Network

Address:
CSNET Coordination and Information Center
BBN Systems and Technologies Corp.
10 Moulton St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

E-mail: cic@sh.cs.net

Phone: (617)873-2777 [CSNET hotline]

Description

CSNET is an international data communications network that supports research and education. Members of CSNET include universities, colleges, government agencies, non-profit organizations and industrial research laboratories. Twelve foreign countries have university networks which are affiliated with CSNET; their users can exchange electronic mail, and in some cases transfer files and log in remotely to computers in the U.S. Foreign organizations can also join CSNET as individual members.

CSNET offers several different connection options to serve the needs of large and small organizations. The options include dial-up delivery of electronic mail, dial-up IP-based interactive service, and IP-based interactive service using leased telephone and X.25 circuits. CSNET currently has about 145 members and affiliates.

CSNET also provides technical information and support services to network users and to member technical representatives. It operates a telephone hotline and a ‘‘help’’ mailbox, publishes an online newsletter and a hardcopy newsletter, and distributes documentation on network use and services through an automated document server.

CSNET users may register in the User Name Server, a directory database of users and hosts maintained at the CIC.

CSNET participates actively in organizations such as the Federation of American Research Networks, the IETF User Services Working Group, and the international ‘‘networkshop’’ forum.

CSNET and Bitnet are merging into a single organization in 1990.

Network Access

Any member organization may use the services of CSNET. A number of the automated services are available to anyone with email access to the Internet.

Who Can Use the Network

Members can exchange data with each other and with the users of many connected networks, including Arpanet, NSFNET, and Bitnet. Use of the network for purposes other than research and education is not permitted.

Miscellaneous Information

See also, Bitnet.