NorthWestNet

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Description

NorthWestNet (NWNet) is a mid-level network of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNet). NWNet provides communication with NSFNet for research centers throughout the Northwest, including sites in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington. The network supports both IP and DECnet within NorthWestNet, but access to the NSFNet is restricted to IP only. A primary focus of NWNet is providing access by researchers in the Northwest to supercomputing resources.

The NWNet NOC and the NSFNet Nodal Switching Subsystem (NSS) for the Northwest are located at the University of Washington. The network is currently implemented using a mix of T1, 56 Kb/s, and voice grade (19.2 Kb/s) leased lines in a mostly-tree topology.

NWNet is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and by membership fees. A Management Committee comprised largely of representatives from the member institutions governs NWNet. Other committees which advise the Management Committee include the Technical Committee and the Training Committee (a subcommittee of the Technical Committee).

Several member institutions have large computers accessible via the Internet. For example, there are two Cray XMP/48 computers at NWNet sites (Boeing and Battelle). Some other resources available to NWNet members include: a mail gateway machine, relay.cac.washington.edu, which can route mail between the Internet, BITNET, CSNET, and UUCP networks; Internet access to the University of Washington library catalog (libcat.lib.washington.edu) and the University of Oregon library catalog (janus.uoregon.edu); and the University of Washington Computing Information Center (CIC), which has over 8000 books, 1200 serial titles, and 8500 technical reports related to computing.

NWNet sponsors a yearly seminar highlighting the resources and services of NWNet, as well as discipline-specific workshops for interested researchers currently using supercomputers or contemplating such use. We also maintain and distribute a training kit containing a manual and videotape, geared toward training user-services personnel in TCP/IP, the use of NWNet, national networks, and supercomputing resources.

Network Access

Any IP host on the Internet may access NWNet sites. For DECnet access, consult the NWNet Network Operations Center.

Who Can Use the Network

Use of the network is governed by an "Acceptable Use" policy, a copy of which is available on request. In general, use is limited to support for scientific research and instruction at member and associate member institutions.

Miscellaneous Information

The 24x7 NOC hotline number is (206) 543-5128, or noc@nwnet.net.