CREN/CSNET: The Computer + Science Network

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Description

CSNET and BITNET merged in the autumn of 1989 to form the Corporation for Research and Educational Networking (CREN). CSNET continues to supply international data communication through TCP/IP and allied email-only services. Members of CREN/CSNET include universities, colleges, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and industrial research laboratories in the U.S. and abroad.

CSNET offers several 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 also provides technical information to network users and support services to member organizations. It operates a 24-hour telephone hotline and a "help" mailbox, publishes CSNET-FORUM (an online newsletter), and distributes documentation on network use and services by email through an automated document server and other automated servers. Network users may access the same information by anonymous FTP.

Network users may register themselves in the CSNET User Name Server, an automated directory database of users and hosts maintained at the CSNET Coordination and Information Center (CIC). The User Name Server may be queried by email or telnet.

CSNET participates actively in Internet organizations such as the Federation of American Research Networks (FARNET) and working groups organized by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

Network Access

Because CSNET offers email-only and dial-up connections as well as full IP services, CSNET takes care to provide appropriate user and technical services for users who lack direct connections to the Internet.

Who Can Use the Network

Any member organization may use the support services of CSNET for technical and user information. The email servers and anonymous FTP files are open to anyone with the appropriate access. CSNET members can exchange messages with each other and with users of many connected networks, including BITNET, NSFNET, Milnet, UUCP, and non-U.S. networks. Use of the network for purposes other than research and education is not permitted.

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