

LSU I.T. – BEHIND THE SCENES



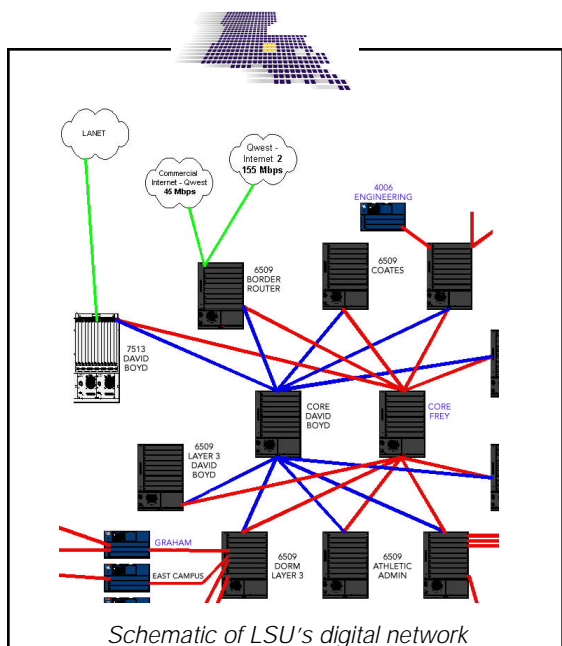
Don't blink . . . we're moving fast!

Behind the Scenes

Louisiana State University has acquired the technological capabilities to be a university on the cutting edge of research and education through appropriated funds from Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster's information technology (I.T.) initiative. For several years, LSU has been a member of Internet2, which provides a high-bandwidth network connection between research-active educational institutions throughout the United States. The Internet2 network is also relatively isolated from dotcom traffic. Through the state's information technology initiative, the Louisiana Board of Regents has been able to extend Internet2 connections to four other research campuses across the state.

The LSU Center for Applied Information Technology and Learning (LSU CAPITAL), has provided funding to significantly upgrade the digital network throughout the LSU campus to be compatible with current and future capabilities of Internet2. This network contains more than 20 gigabit Ethernet connections to the backbone and the ability to forward more than 60 million data packets per second. More importantly, this design can be scaled to support in excess of 100 fully redundant gigabit Ethernet connections to the backbone with the ability to forward more than 400 million data packets per second. From virtually any location on campus, students and faculty can now communicate with one another and/or with colleagues at other institutions nationwide via this robust network.

LSU's digital network can now support high quality videoconferencing sessions with up to 70 simultaneous users, thanks to the new multipoint conferencing unit (MCU) that has been acquired through LSU CAPITAL funding. The primary purpose of the MCU is to allow users to see all other participants simultaneously on their computer monitors. LSU researchers can now collaborate face-to-face with others around the world and instructors can teach courses from LSU while broadcasting to other university campuses across the country. The MCU is operated and maintained by LSU's Office of Telecommunications.



Schematic of LSU's digital network

Numerous I.T. activities on the LSU campus are supported behind the scenes by a significantly enhanced campus intranet, Internet2, and a new videoconferencing facility.

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Applied Information Technology and Learning (LSU CAPITAL)