Merit Network
Connecting Organizations, Building Community

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President and CEO
Who is Merit?

- Independent not-for-profit corporation owned by the public universities of Michigan.
- Receives no direct state funding.
  - Almost all revenue is fee-for-service
  - Research grants <5% of revenue
- Provides network and network-based services.
The Michigan Education Research Information Triad (MERIT) formed in 1966 because, “significant benefits might be gained from sharing computing resources via an electronic linkage…”

1969 NSF grant for computer networking with only comparable work at BBN (ARPANET)

Dial-up “Hermes” service in 1973 (!)

Designed, engineered, managed and operated the NSFNET backbone

Received NSF Cooperative Agreement for Routing Arbiter in 1994 (2nd Solicitation for NSFNET)

Merit starts sponsoring NANOG in 1994

Leader in Economic Development in the State with spinoffs: ANS, Interlink and GateD

Merit provided dial-in access for educational technology through 2007

Merit Embarks on a Fiber and Wireless Backbone Strategy in 2003
“To be a respected leader in developing and providing advanced networking services to the research and education community. Merit is a trusted source for providing high-quality network infrastructure; initiating and facilitation collaboration; and providing knowledge and technology transfer through outreach.”
NANOG’s Future?
VOTE!