The Energy Sciences Network: Overview, Update, Impact

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Overview

Update

Impact
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Ceci n'est pas une pipe.
This is not an ISP.
It’s a DOE user facility engineered to overcome the constraints of geography.

We do this by offering unique capabilities, and optimizing the facility for data acquisition, data placement, data sharing, data mobility.
ESnet’s superficial resemblance to an international ISP is deceptive, and arguably a risk.
Our vision:

Scientific progress will be **completely unconstrained** by the physical location of instruments, people, computational resources, or data.
This is not a new way of describing ESnet.

1. “What we can do on LANs today is indicative of what we wish to be able to do on wide area networks.”

2. “Just as we expect a computer to perform as if we are the only user, we expect the network to give that same appearance.”
The basic facts (new or notable):

High-speed international networking facility, optimized for DOE science missions:

- connecting 50 labs, plants and facilities with >150 networks, universities, research partners globally
- 340Gbps transatlantic extension in production (Dec 2014)
- university connections to better serve LHC science
- $35M in FY15, 42FTE
- older than commercial Internet, growing ~twice as fast
- the DOE user facility that serves all others

$62M ARRA grant funded 100G upgrade in 2011:

- fiber assets + access to spectrum, shared with Internet2
- new era of optical networking, abundant capacity
- world’s first 100G network at continental scale

Culture of urgency:

- several recent awards
- 80% engineers, highly motivated
ESnet is designed for different goals than general Internet.
Elephant flows require almost lossless networks.

Throughput vs. Increasing Latency with .0046% Packet Loss

Measured (TCP Reno)  Measured (HTCP)  Theoretical (TCP Reno)  Measured (no loss)

Science Data Transferred Each Month by the Energy Sciences Network
Science Data Transferred Each Month by the Energy Sciences Network
sensors and instruments.
80% of ESnet traffic originates or terminates outside the DOE complex.
In a nutshell:

• Data intensive science inevitably drives network intensity.
• DOE traffic continues to grow exponentially.
• Data ‘point sources’ are becoming more numerous, less expensive.
• DOE data flows typically include universities, global collaborations.
  – only 20% of ESnet data flows are DOE↔DOE
Now, a few brief examples of ESnet’s role in DOE workflows, starting with LHC science.
Evolution of LHC data model:

In chronological order

1. Copy as much data as is feasible to analysis centers worldwide, with hierarchical distribution scheme (‘Monarc’ model, deterministic flows).
2. Relax the hierarchy, and rely on optimistic caching.
3. Use ‘federated data stores’ to fetch portions of relevant data sets from remote storage (anywhere), just before they’re needed.

This evolution implies growing faith in networks, growing opportunity for Software Defined Networking.
To support this evolving data model, research networks have built a vast global overlay.

LHC Open Network Environment (LHCONE):

- dedicated and isolated network overlay for LHC experiments
- gives consistent, high-performance access for LHC computing centers
  – extensive use of virtual circuits
- 30 networks (with ESnet as core participant), dozens of universities
- an international highway system optimized for LHC flows
  – custom global instrument, but also a collaboration
This architecture (instruments and computational resources coupled by networks) now spreading outside HEP: ‘super-facilities.’

Experimental facilities are being transformed by new detectors, advanced mathematics, robotics, automation, advanced networks.
Super-facility example #1:

Researchers from Berkeley Lab and SLAC conducted protein crystallography experiments at LCLS to investigate photoexcited states of PSII, with near-real-time computational analysis at NERSC.

Data flow from single LCLS detector *tripled* network utilization for major HPC center.
Super-facility example #2:

Real-time analysis of ‘slot-die’ technique for printing organic photovoltaics, using ALS + NERSC (SPOT Suite for reduction, remeshing, analysis) + OLCF (HipGISAXS running on Titan w/ 8000 GPUs).

Results presented at March 2015 meeting of American Physical Society by Alex Hexemer.

Additional DOE contributions: **GLOBUS** (ANL), **CAMERA** (Berkeley Lab)
Super-facility-on-demand demo at NSF GENI conference tomorrow.

- fictional - but realistic - workflow
- dedicated systems for data transfer and network circuits created programmatically
- future vision: application declares intention for super-facility, network responds
- “Science DMZ as a service”

http://portal.nersc.gov/project/als/sc14/
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Immediate driver: more capacity for **LHC Run 2**. But the extension supports **all DOE missions**, reducing barriers to European collaborators / instruments.
How? [short detour]
Internet’s physical substrate, optical fiber...

courtesy thefoa.org

courtesy http://shulihallak.com/
...also criss-crosses the ocean floors.
ESnet operations: focus on simplicity, automation, core mission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan 2014</th>
<th>Jan 2015</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitored hosts</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-patched hosts</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-configured hosts</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical hosts</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual hosts</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypervisors</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS Versions</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESnet’s video collaboration and X.509 services for DOE were highly distinctive at one time, but no longer. We have transitioned them to commercial providers, in the spirit of focusing on our core mission.
Our portal (my.es.net) now greatly enhanced.
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Honors for ESnet5 deployment:

*FierceGovernment* chose the ESnet5 Deployment Team as a recipient of the annual Fierce 15 award, in recognition of “federal employees and teams who have done particularly innovative things.”

Information Week named ESnet as one of the “top 15 innovators”, among government entities at every layer: federal, state and local. It was the *second time in four years* ESnet received this award.
More recent honors and awards:

ESnet’s OSCARS software was honored with a 2013 R&D100 Award, and more recently with a 2014 Secretary’s Honor Award from DOE.

ESnet’s Network Research Testbed received CENIC’s 2015 Innovations in Networking award: “ESnet inspires us to do more for our communities, and to do better at what we do.” (CENIC CEO Louis Fox)

Inder Monga, ESnet CTO and Division Deputy, named chair of Research Associate Council for Open Networking Foundation (most important membership org promoting SDN).
Staffing remains lean.

- Brazil (422)
- UK (180)
- Czech Republic (142)
- Netherlands (138)
- Croatia (112)
- Internet2 (~100)
- Hungary (94)
- Australia (80)
- Norway (78)
- Switzerland (76)
- Greece (68)
- France (66)
- Italy (61)
- Germany (54)
- Ireland (52)
- Slovenia (51)
- Belgium (50)
- Portugal (47)
- ESnet (42)

Caveats: varying service and business models make comparisons difficult, but the large-scale pattern is instructive. (Headcount numbers interpolated from bar graph on page 80 of the most recent GÉANT Association Compendium, or described elsewhere in that report.)
We are working to increase *diversity* in the field of network engineering.

- Sponsored two early-career women from DOE/SC labs to attend an important annual conference for network engineers (Internet2/ESnet Technology Exchange, Fall 2014).
- Co-organizing diversity track and panel at same conference.
- Participating in the steering committee of Internet2’s gender diversity initiative for women in IT (across US university space).
- Grace Hopper conference, for career development as well as recruitment.
- In partnership with FRGP and others: proposal to NSF to fund SCinet participation for young female engineers.
Overview

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Our vision and strategic goals guide impacts.

**vision:**

Discovery is unconstrained by geography.

**strategic goals:**

1. Improve networking practices globally.
2. Provide information and tools for optimal network use.
3. Pioneer architectures, protocols, applications.
Our vision and strategic goals guide impacts.

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- Discovery is unconstrained by geography.

**strategic goals:**
1. Improve networking practices globally.
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Reminder: 80% of ESnet traffic originates or terminates outside the DOE complex.

ESnet’s success is not sufficient, because networks share fate. SC invests nearly $1B/year in university research, and campus networks matter to DOE.
Introducing **Science DMZ**, a network design pattern for data-intensive science (origin: ESnet & NERSC).

Three components, all required

1. Friction-free network path:
   - highly-capable network devices (wire-speed, deep queues)
   - at or near site perimeter, with option for virtual circuit connections
   - security policies tailored for science

2. Dedicated, Data Transfer Nodes (DTNs):
   - hardware, operating system, libraries optimized for data transfer
   - appropriate tools such as Globus and GridFTP

3. Performance measurement / test nodes:
   - perfSONAR
   - testing, assurance, forensics

Much more information: [http://fasterdata.es.net/science-dmz/](http://fasterdata.es.net/science-dmz/)
Science DMZ now recognized as best practice.

NSF is investing $60M to promote adoption by US universities (among other CI goals). Fourth funding round underway.

>120 universities in the US have deployed this DOE architecture.

IN addition: USDA, NIH – with NASA, NOAA investigating.

Australian, Canadian universities following suit.
What’s next? Evolution of Science DMZ as a regional cyberinfrastructure platform.

Pacific Research Platform initiative, lead by Larry Smarr (Calit2/UCSD)

- first large-scale effort to coordinate and integrate Science DMZs
- participation by all major California R&E institutions, CENIC, ESnet
Back to impacts: ‘fasterdata’ knowledgebase.

vision:

strategic goals:

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Interrupt Binding

To fully maximize single stream performance (both TCP and UDP), you'll probably need to pay attention to which core it's being used. To get the best performance you want the NIC interrupts going to 1 core, and the application IO thread to a nearby core, but not the same core.

For hosts with Intel Sandy/Ivy Bridge motherboards this is even more important. As you can see in the figure on the right, the PCI slot for the NIC is directly attached only one of the two processors. There is a large performance penalty if either the interrupts or the application is on the wrong processor because if that happens everything must cross the QPI bus.

On a system with slow processors, or a 40G PIC gen-3 host, TCP and UDP performance increases of up to 2x have been observed by ensuring that the NIC driver interrupts and applications threads are handled by the right cores.

On Linux, you can use the `sched_setaffinity()` system call or the `numactl` command line tool to bind a process to a core. For iperf3, you can use the "-A" flag, and for nuttcp you can use the "-xc" flag to do this.

To specify which core handles the NIC interrupts you need to `disable irqbalance`, and then bind the interrupts to a specific core.

Some vendors provide scripts to do this IRQ binding at boot time.
Sample Campus & Regional Cyberinfrastructure Plans

The following are representative campus, and regional, cyberinfrastructure plans from facilities around the U.S. Each plan was submitted as part of a proposal to National Science Foundation's Campus Cyberinfrastructure programs (CC-IE, CC-NIE, and CC-DNI). These materials are provided as examples for universities and institutions looking to develop their own campus CI plans, strategies and architectures to support research, education, and discovery.

University of Florida Cyberinfrastructure Plan

Executive summary As part of the strategy to make the University of Florida a member of the top 10 public universities in the United States, it is critical to build the right foundation for faculty and students to do their work in education and research. The University of Florida plans to build upon existing infrastructure and enhance it to reach the following goals and milestones: Infrastructure... READ MORE »

University of Utah Cyberinfrastructure Plan

Information Technology (IT) Governance Research Portfolio Document context The University of Utah Information Technology Research Portfolio, currently chaired by Prof. Thomas Cheatham, is a component of the newly implemented Information Technology (IT) governance structure of the University of Utah. The portfolio has replaced the earlier Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CI) Council that was... READ MORE »

University of Hawai‘i Cyberinfrastructure Plan

Introduction The University of Hawai‘i (UH) is already one of the nation’s top research universities, with distinctive strengths in astronomy, earth and ocean sciences. In developing the new Hawai‘i Innovation Initiative (HII2), which calls for bold expansion in these and other strategic areas such as agriculture and the health sciences, it became apparent that stronger capabilities... READ MORE »
Selected impacts in research and innovation.

vision:

Discovery is unconstrained by geography.

strategic goals:

1. Improve networking practices globally.
2. Provide information and tools for optimal network use.
3. Pioneer architectures, protocols, applications.
Ongoing impacts (universities, labs, networks):

• OSCARS for virtual circuits with service guarantees
  – adopted by >40 networks & universities
  – production software for almost 10 years
  – initially funded by ASCR NGNS, LBNL LDRD
  – Secretary’s Honor Award, April 7

• perfSONAR for network measurement (diagnostics, assurance, forensics)
  – integral to ScienceDMZ
  – ESnet, Indiana, Internet2 and GÉANT major collaborators
  – 1200 deployments worldwide

• Science DMZ
  – network design pattern for data intensive science
  – NSF support with >120 campus deployments in the US alone
Ongoing impacts (industry):

- Frequently among the **first customers** for new technology (100G terrestrial, 100G trans-Atlantic, 400G terrestrial, fastest available NICs, etc).

- Deep collaboration with Infinera to demonstrate **first SDN for optical transport** (October 2012) resulted in new product, with major carrier announcement March 2015.

- Ongoing collaboration with different optical vendor will result in significant reduction in **product development cycle** (to be announced in May).

- Frequent engagement with relevant startups, for instance **Corsa Technology**:  
  - first public customer for disruptive ‘white box’ networking gear  
  - worked closely to develop packet-processing pipeline useful to DOE science missions  
  - Corsa closed $16M series B funding this week
Two sources of future impact:

• ESnet testbed – available to researchers and industry since 2011, now upgraded with low-cost ‘white box’ SDN equipment (Corsa Technology), on an international footprint. Intended uses:
  – R&D for SDN, NFV, NDN, systems, protocols, security
  – ESnet6 prototypes
  – federation with other testbeds
  – platform for collaborations and demonstrations

• SDN innovation, including ESnet Operating System
  – platform for science apps to express intent, simultaneously, across >1 network
  – focus on requirements not being met by industry, open-source projects
  – supported by Berkeley Lab LDRD
  – multipoint VPN service demonstration in May
ESnet SDN impacts, in a nutshell:

- **2006**
  - OSCARS; R&D100 Award 2013

- **2011**
  - RDMA over Ethernet with OF and NEC
  - Zero Configuration Circuits, 2011

- **2012**
  - Network Virtualization ‘One Switch’, Nov 2012

- **2012**
  - World’s first Transport SDN, Dec 2012

- **2013**
  - Software-Defined Exchange @ REANNZ/ESnet, April 2013
  - Multi-domain Circuits with NSI, Oct 2013

- **2013**
  - Multilayer Transport SDN Demonstration, Oct 2013

- **2014**
  - Scalable BGP ‘white-box’ Router, w/ Corsa, Aug 2014
  - Dynamic L3 and L2, SDN router + NSI, Sept 2014
Spotlight on one project: global SDN BGP peering

Inter-operability with routing standards protocol (BGP) using SDN techniques.

Physically distinct control plane (using off the rack Unix server) and data plane (using OpenFlow switch) functions.

Demonstrated ~40% FIB compression (13,215 -> 7,577 routes)

Dynamic layer 2 setup (using OSCARS with NSI) for transport of layer 3 BGP protocol messages.

Goals

• Explore feasibility of ‘white box’ designs for core Internet routing.
• Backward compatibility with standard protocols (especially BGP) without compromising performance, scalability, operability.
• Simplify control and management through logical centralization.
In conclusion, a reminder about our vision:

Scientific progress will be completely unconstrained by the physical location of instruments, people, computational resources, or data.
ESnet is an instrument for discovery, and increasingly the *glue* for DOE super-facilities.

The new European extension supports LHC Run 2, plus all DOE missions.

ESnet innovation is impacting scientists, researchers, universities, industry – around the world.
Thank you.

greg@es.net
Additional Slides
Broad questions driving ESnet research and development activities:

1. How can we continue to scale up and handle exponential traffic growth with linear budgets?

1. Can we create useful abstractions to enable productive interaction between science applications and the network?

1. Can we transform ESnet into a programmable platform that can be operationally supported?
Elephant Flows Place Great Demands on Networks

Physical pipe that leaks water at rate of .0046% by volume.

Network ‘pipe’ that drops packets at rate of .0046%.

Result 99.9954% of water transferred, at “line rate.”

Result 100% of data transferred, slowly, at <<5% optimal speed.

essentially fixed
determined by speed of light

maximum segment size \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{packet-loss rate}}}

Through careful engineering, we can minimize packet loss.

Assumptions: 10Gbps TCP flow, 80ms RTT.

More detailed network diagram.
The ‘Default Free’ Zone
Segmenting the world of scientific collaboration.

- **Data Scale**
  - Small collaboration scale, e.g. light and neutron sources
  - Medium collaboration scale, e.g. HPC codes
  - Large collaboration scale, e.g. LHC

- **Collaboration Scale**
  - A few large collaborations have internal software and networking organizations
  - New projects targeting 100 beamline users, climate community.
  - ESnet’s historical focus
ESnet / Infinera / Brocade multi-layer packet-optical SDN demonstration (Oct 2013)

Presented at SDN World Congress (Bad Homburg, Germany)