



Connecting to Merit's Network

A Guide for Anchor Institutions to Take Advantage of Merit's REACH-3MC Infrastructure

With over 40 years of networking experience, Merit Network is Michigan's most experienced network provider, operating a statewide, robust and comprehensive IP network. The REACH-3MC project will add 2,287 miles of fiber-optic infrastructure to Merit's statewide network.

Merit Network provides high-performance networking solutions to Michigan's public universities, colleges, K-12 organizations, libraries, state government, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations. Organizations can connect to Merit's network with either fiber-optic or point-to-point circuit connections.

With two 20 Gigabits-per-second (Gbps) routes to Chicago and a 10 Gbps route to Cleveland, as well as multiple connections between our major backbone nodes, Merit has considerable diverse network paths within our network and to the broader Internet, minimizing network congestion and outages. This translates to faster downloads, smoother media delivery, and greater reliability.

Merit is the only provider of Internet2 Network access in Michigan, and qualified Members connected by MeritFiber can use the Internet2 Network for advanced research, high-bandwidth applications, interactive field trips, and special programs.

To request information about connecting to Merit's network, please visit:

www.merit.edu/members/join/

Connecting Michigan

Merit's Member Organizations

Percentages of organizations in the state connected to Merit's network:

- 40% of Private Universities
- 92% of Public Universities
- 59% of Community Colleges
- 55% of Library Cooperatives
- 58% of K-12 Intermediate School Districts
- 26% of Public Libraries



Connectivity Options



MeritFiber extends the benefits of private fiber-optic connectivity to our Members, providing a managed fiber attachment service that encompasses everything from design and bidding to construction and implementation. MeritFiber offers a Member an opportunity to control costs by "flattening" the cost of the local loop circuit with low-cost expandability in the future. All initial MeritFiber connections begin at 1 Gbps.

MeritFiber provides the perfect connection for low-latency network applications, such as Voice over IP (VoIP), IPTV, and interactive videoconferencing.



MeritConnect provides our Members with a dedicated network connection by a point-to-point private telco circuit or a wireless connection. Network capacity options are available in flexible, cost-effective increments.



Unparalleled Network Availability and Reliability

Traffic to other Merit Members never leaves Merit's network for the greater Internet. This results in a faster, more secure transmission, compared to other providers who backhaul traffic out-of-state. Merit's 24x7 Merit Support Center continuously monitors the network, Member connections, and routing equipment to ensure network availability.

Connectivity Service Options



MeritFiber_{PLUS} service takes advantage of Merit's facilities-based network, providing Members with a MeritFiber connection with additional flexibility and significant cost savings. Merit will provide a wide open connection, allowing a Member the ability to utilize a full 1 Gbps connection.



On-Net/Off-Net Service provides cost savings for traffic that stays "On-Net," which is traffic between locations that are directly connected to Merit's network. Off-Net traffic is traffic to that goes to Internet sites and locations not directly connected to Merit's network. Fixed bandwidth, burstable options, and monthly pricing are available.



On-Net Service is a direct connection to Merit's network and is used only to connect to other locations that are directly connected to Merit's network. The service is ideal for educational organizations and libraries who wish to connect to similar organizations that are already connected to Merit's network. Fixed bandwidth, burstable options, and monthly pricing are available.



MeritDiverse Connection service provides an organization with a redundant, back-up route and network routing flexibility. Merit's peering arrangements with national networks put a Merit Member's connection closer to the Internet content, providing your organization with a faster route than you may experience from another provider's network. Fixed bandwidth, burstable options, and monthly pricing are available.



Consortium Service provides a group of organizations in a community or a region of Michigan with a unique collaboration structure that allows related entities to work together to purchase services and share resources.

REACH-3MC Connectivity for Anchor Institutions

Higher education, K-12 organizations, libraries, state government, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations can visit the following location to submit their interest in connectivity: www.merit.edu/members/join/

REACH-3MC Connectivity for Others

Businesses, Internet service providers and residences can visit the following location to submit their interest in connectivity and broadband service: www.merit.edu/form2/