

# Newsletter

## November 2014

CEN



Mark your calendars for Friday May 15, 2015, to join us for the third annual Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Conference. With an anticipated 300+ participants drawn from educators (K-12 and higher ed), municipalities, libraries, local businesses and State of Connecticut agencies, this conference will draw together key stakeholders in the high speed fiber optical network from both hardware and end user perspectives.

As we want to keep this conference accessible, we are keeping our registration price at only \$75 (\$50 Early Bird until Feb 3, 2015). This will give you access to a full day of events (8:00-5:00) including multiple breakout sessions, interaction with vendors, great food, and networking with peers. Parking at the Hartford Convention Center is included in the registration fee. Registration will go live in December.

The Conference Committee is hard at work ensuring the expected quality of event and engagement. We are still looking for speakers for break out sessions and conference sponsors; if you are interested in getting involved, let us know ([melanie.raczkowski@uconn.edu](mailto:melanie.raczkowski@uconn.edu)).

We look forward to seeing you there.

## CEN Partners with Merit Network

### ***CEN Members can now take advantage of Merit's training courses at a discount***

CEN members have access to discounted pricing on Merit's Professional Learning and cyber security courseware and certifications, utilizing the infrastructure of the Michigan Cyber Range. Hosted by Merit, the Michigan Cyber Range is a virtual environment used to teach, train and test the security of strategic systems in the safety of an isolated world. Cyber security courses offered include penetration testing, ethical hacking, information security, digital forensics and more. Merit is a Michigan-based non-profit corporation that operates America's longest-running regional research and education network.

"We are very excited about our partnership with CEN and the State of Connecticut. Our classes and the Michigan Cyber Range will nicely compliment the great value that CEN provides their members," said Don Welch, president and CEO of Merit.

Merit also provides a catalog of in-person and live-online learning courses for IT professionals. These courses are designed to advance technology skills, such as networking, Linux security, business continuity, IPv6, project management and virtualization.

### **About Merit Network**

Merit Network, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation owned and governed by Michigan's public universities. Merit owns and operates America's longest-running regional research and education network. In 1966, Michigan's public universities created Merit as a shared resource to help meet their common need for networking assistance. Since its formation, Merit Network has remained on the forefront of research and education networking expertise and services. Merit provides high-performance networking and IT solutions to Michigan's public universities, colleges, K-12 organizations, libraries, state government, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations.

To book a training course visit: [www.merit.edu/learning](http://www.merit.edu/learning)

## Spotlight Member: Town of Waterbury

Waterbury had been utilizing a commercial provider for their Internet access and the costs were fairly significant while the bandwidth was low. Like most municipalities they have to be very careful with expenditures, so a clear advantage of joining the Connecticut

Education Network was to replace their Internet provider to achieve a much higher transfer rate at a significantly lower cost (from 6 Mbps maximum to a committed rate of 20 Mbps with much higher burst allowances, paying around one-fourth of what they had been paying). The tremendous increase in speed has allowed the city of Waterbury to relax their usage rules and allow their user community to access important Internet-based resources that had been off limits on the slower connection; for example, online training videos, unlimited web conferences, and sharing of much larger files. Waterbury's library continues to use Bibliomation as the Internet provider for patrons, but the administrative personnel are taking advantage of the fast new connection through CEN. The city now has several buildings connected to the fiber network (City Hall, Chase Municipal Building, Silas Bronson Library, Police Headquarters, Fire Headquarters, City Hall Annex at One Jefferson Square, Water Pollution Control Facility) and they are all able to access CEN through their main connection at a central data center. These buildings house almost all of their administrative and support personnel and now that the fiber optic infrastructure is in place, there are no physical barriers to any shared applications.



"As the largest city and municipal hub of our region, we are excited at the prospect of developing and utilizing applications that will allow us to work with our surrounding towns to take advantage of shared resources and data and increase our effectiveness in meeting the common purpose of serving our citizens and taxpayers. We can now sit with our peers and design ways to take advantage of collaborative opportunities that would not be possible without the Nutmeg Network (CEN), and it all comes at a bargain cost that would be prohibitive and therefore unachievable if we had to try to create the same network using commercial providers. The Nutmeg Network opens doors that would simply have been impossible under the old model. Thanks"--Daniel J. Iarrapino, Director, Dept. of Information Technology, City of Waterbury

*Is your organization interested in being a spotlight member? We would like to hear from YOU about something exciting your school or organization is doing that leverages technology. Tell us about how you are using CEN, contributing to an accomplishment you have recently achieved or how you are integrating technology in an educational setting. Please contact [brynn.deprey@uconn.edu](mailto:brynn.deprey@uconn.edu) with your story.*

## Teaching via Teleconference, From Connecticut College to St. Petersburg

Connecticut College is using the CEN optical network to facilitate classes with a Russian university.

Professor Andrea Lanoux from Connecticut College, along with Irina Schemeleva of the Higher School of Economics (HSE) in St. Petersburg, are team-teaching a course this semester in real time, "The Net Generation: Contemporary Russian and American Youth Cultures," using teleconference. The course

includes seventeen students at the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg and eighteen students at Connecticut College in New London, CT. This is the second interaction of the course, the first being offered in 2011.

The course meets twice a week for 75 minutes each class: the first meeting is via teleconference beginning at 9:00 a.m. Connecticut time and 5:00 p.m. St. Petersburg time; for the second meeting, Russian and American students met separately at their home institutions (without teleconferencing) to discuss texts and assignments, as well as the previous class. This toggling back and forth between whole-group discussion and discussions of Russian and American students separately is a crucial factor in the course's success: allowing students to reflect in their native language on the cultural differences manifest during whole-group discussion creates an additional object of analysis - the comments, reactions, and interactions of students from both cultures in the same space. In other words, one of the most important texts in the course is the course itself.

CEN offers video teleconferencing services to its members through its Telepresence Video Core. This service provides an easy way for multiple parties to connect through a high definition live videoconference. More information on this service can be obtained by contacting CEN ([michael.pennington@uconn.edu](mailto:michael.pennington@uconn.edu)).



## Tech Alert!!! iboss Coming Soon

Be on the lookout for our new filtering service iboss that is replacing Trustwave. It is available starting Friday November 14th. More information will be forthcoming this week on CEN's [website](#) and via social media. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@CTEDUNET) or connect with us via Connecticut Education Network on LinkedIn Company pages.

## Network Support Information: Recent Updates

### 1 Gb Library Connections

Bolton Public Library is now connected.

Henry Carter Hall Public Library in Clinton upgraded from DSL 6Mb.

Meriden Public Library upgraded from 100 Mb.

Plainville Public Library upgraded from DSL 6 Mb.

Wallingford Public Library upgraded from 100 Mb.

West Hartford Public Library upgraded from 100 Mb.

### Network Upgrades

CEN installed a 100Gb from Cambridge, MA to CT, upgrading from 20Gb. In addition, a new science and research zone (DMZ) was opened as an overlay to researchers and educators between Storrs, Hartford and Farmington. We are now in the process of building in redundancy of 100 Gb out of Hartford.

Milford Town Hall has joined CEN, connecting with a 50 Mb circuit.

### Linking CEN technical skills with your classrooms

CEN has previously run informational sessions focused on technical skills involving networking technologies and software. Let us know if you are interested in learning more about how our knowledgeable engineering practioners could offer an outreach class for your university or school (brynn.deprey@uconn.edu).

## Municipality Project: Key Deadlines

To take advantage of year two Municipal Grant Funding, you have until **December 31, 2014** to submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (also referred to as Nutmeg Network Proposal Form). In addition, you also need to submit a [Nutmeg Network Request](#) to generate your quote.

You then receive a quote from CEN by email that will require you to respond as to how you will connect. Submit this quote to OPM by **February 15, 2015** by email (sandra.huber@ct.gov).

Finally, you need to submit an authorized Resolution of Endorsement (ROE) by March 31, 2015 (signed hardcopy returned to OPM by mail).

***For year one grant recipients, a reminder that you have until March 15, 2015 to finish your fiber build and connect to the network.***

For more information on this project, please contact wendy.rego@uconn.edu.

## Upcoming Events

**Monthly ConnECT Meeting:** CEN's Scott Taylor to speak!

November 13, 2014, Hartford, CT with Capitol Region Education Council [Register](#)

**Get the Word Out: Promote Your Library's Resources, Programs and More!**

November 14, 2014, New Britain, CT with the Connecticut Library Association [Register](#)

**Wednesday Webinar: Must Have Apps for Mobile Devices: Social Software**

November 17, 2014, Online with Connecticut State Library [Register](#)

**IT Project Management: Fundamentals and Best Practices**

November 17-21, 2014, Online with the Merit Network [Register](#)

**Introduction to Google Apps**

November 19, 2014, Online with Connecticut State Library [Register](#)

**Bring-Your-Own-Device: A Summit for Decision-Makers**

December 3, 2014, Ann Arbor MI with the Merit Network [Register](#)

**Certified Information Systems Security Officer (CISSO)**

December 8-12, 2014, Online with the Merit Network [Register](#)

**IPv6 Workshop: Practical Tools for Implementation**

December 9-10, 2014, Ann Arbor MI with the Merit Network [Register](#)

Don't see it here? Email your events (brynn.deprey@uconn.edu) that would be of interest to CEN members- educators, municipalities, libraries, local businesses and state agencies. Next newsletter circulated in February 2015.

STAY CONNECTED  
[www.cen.ct.gov](http://www.cen.ct.gov)



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