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## **LEARN and ESnet Link Up to Deliver 100-Gigabit-per-second Network Connectivity to Advance Research and Discovery**

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*Lubbock, Texas* – LEARN: Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN), and the Department of Energy’s Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) teamed up in February 2017 to create a 100-Gigabit-per-second (Gbps) network path between LEARN and ESnet’s backbone network.

The new path enables more direct, friction-free flows of data between researchers in Texas and their collaborators who are connected to ESnet, which connects tens of thousands of scientists at national laboratories and universities across the country, as well as collaborators around the world.

The direct IPv4 and IPv6 peering, established in Houston in February 2017, supports 100 Gbps of traffic between Houston and Dallas. LEARN members (<http://www.tx-learn.org/members/>) and affiliates can now connect at ESnet’s highest speeds across the nation and overseas in support of education and research across all science domains.

“As the nature of research is increasingly collaborative, partnerships like this one between ESnet and the Texas research and education community served by LEARN is critical to ensuring that researchers can access, share and analyze data as they tackle important problems,” said ESnet Director Inder Monga, “ESnet is happy to work with our Texas partners to open up these new opportunities.”

For example, more than 150 researchers in Texas run calculations at the Department of Energy’s National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center in Berkeley, California. Users such as UT Austin, UT El Paso, Rice University and the University of Houston will now have 100 Gbps connectivity end-to-end, allowing them to more easily move massive datasets.

"We very much appreciate LEARN and ESnet providing this 100 Gbps connection, which will be a major resource for supporting multiple data intensive science research communities, research testbeds, and technology innovation, for both national and international collaboration," says Joe Mambretti, Director of the International Center for Advanced Internet Research, Northwestern University and Director of StarLight International/National Communications Exchange Facility.

“The improved connectivity between LEARN and ESnet will help Texas Tech researchers to make more efficient use of local and remote computing facilities by moving data to the optimum location for analysis, and will allow smoother bi-directional transfer of simulation and research results.” says Kay Rhodes, Texas Tech University System’s Associate Vice Chancellor & CIO, and LEARN Board Chair.

**About LEARN:**

The LEARN consortium comprises 39 organizations throughout Texas that includes public and private institutions of higher education, community colleges, the National Weather Service, and K-12 public schools. The consortium, organized as a 501(c)(3), connects these organizations and over 500 affiliated organizations with high performance optical network services to support their research, education, health care and public service missions. LEARN is also a part of a national community of research optical networks and provides Texas connectivity to national and international research and education networks.

**About ESnet:**

The Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) is a high-performance, unclassified network built to support scientific research. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science (SC) and managed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, ESnet provides services to more than 40 DOE research sites including the entire national laboratory system, its supercomputing facilities, and its major scientific instruments. ESnet also connects to 140 research and commercial networks, permitting DOE-funded scientists to productively collaborate with partners around the world."

**For more information:**

<http://www.tx-learn.net>

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