U.S.UCAN

United States Unified Community Anchor Network

U.S. UCAN: An Overview

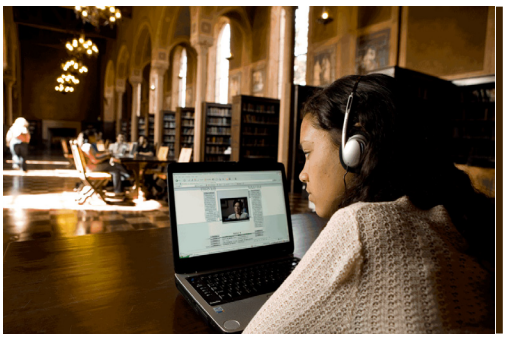
Introducing the U.S. UCAN project

The mission of the U.S. UCAN project is to provide community anchor institutions including public safety organizations, public libraries, K-12 schools, community colleges, research parks, and health care organizations with advanced broadband capabilities and services. Utilizing the Internet2 national research and education network, U.S. UCAN will enable these institutions to better serve their communities with telemedicine, distance learning and other life-changing Internet-based applications, not currently possible with consumer-grade Internet service. In doing so, these institutions will be able to dramatically improve the delivery of public services to their communities and lead to the creation of new economic opportunities for their local citizens.

At its core, U.S. UCAN is helping to bring to fruition a critical recommendation of the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Plan, which seeks to ensure that the advanced application and networking requirements of community anchor institutions (CAIs) are coordinated, understood, and fulfilled – such requirements had historically been ignored. U.S. UCAN aims to fill the critical gap recognized by the FCC by supporting CAIs with access to national networking and services that extend next-generation capabilities, operate with end-to-end transparency and the high levels of performance uniquely suited to the needs of these organizations.

Guided by community to build communities

The U.S. UCAN project was officially created in January 2011 by the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development which established and has operated the Internet2 organization since 1996. As a first step in developing the project, Mark Johnson was appointed Interim Executive Director of U.S. UCAN. Johnson is on short-term assignment from his role as Chief Technology Officer and Vice President for Operations and



The USC Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive, currently available via the Internet2 Network. Photo by S. Peter Lopez, courtesy of the Institute.

Infrastructure at MCNC – the regional research and education network serving the State of North Carolina's K-20 Public and Private Education Institutions.

In collaboration with assigned staff from Internet2, Texas A&M University, and other non-profit organizations, the team has begun work to:

- Collect and analyze data to determine how the various CAI sectors are currently organized;
- Plan ways to develop functioning communities of users that will convene and collaborate to deploy advanced applications within each sector;
- Gather information about activities underway in support of BTOP Infrastructure awards by conducting interviews with key contacts at regional community anchor networks that are either directly or indirectly involved in those awards;
- Coordinate with existing regional research and education networks to determine how U.S. UCAN can work with them to establish a unified national-regional-local partnership that will be most responsive to the advanced networking and services needs of CAIs across all sectors;
- Begin to develop a tangible portfolio of U.S. UCAN services.

201104-IS-USUCAN

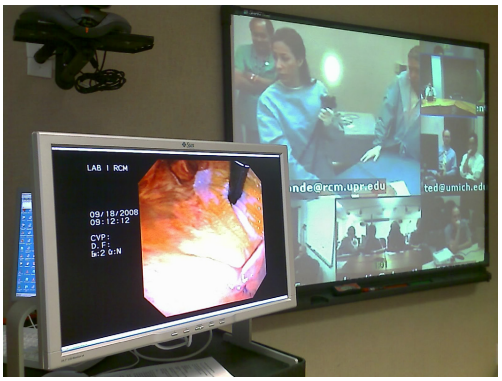
In parallel, the Task Force on CAI Economic Models was established in February 2011 by the Internet2 Board of Trustees. Led by Mike Roberts, one of the original organizers of Internet2, and comprised of representatives from CAI sectors as well as regional and state research and education networks, the Task Force is working diligently to develop sustainable economic and business models for the U.S. UCAN project. The Task Force is expected to complete its work by Fall 2011.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is developing a distance learning course on how to teach about the Holocaust, using Internet2 to enable multipoint videoconferencing capabilities.

U.S. UCAN and Internet2

The U.S. UCAN project was established under the auspices of a federal stimulus grant to Internet2 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Using this stimulus funding, Internet2 is acquiring more than 10,000 miles of fiber optic cable and will build a new nationwide network infrastructure with an unprecedented 8.8 Terabits of capacity using emerging 100 Gigabit per second technology. This new infrastructure will serve as the underlying infrastructure for U.S. UCAN to offer its services to community anchor institutions nationwide.

The new network which will be built through strong public-private partnerships, intends to complement and link together new regional community anchor networks created through BTOP funding as well as Internet2's existing regional network members and network connectors. The goal is to provide the high performance national networking capable of fully supporting all 200,000 community anchor institutions across the U.S.—three times as many institutions as the Internet2 Network serves today.



An endoscopic surgery, broadcast from the University of Puerto Rico to multiple U.S. locations via high-quality, real-time video and multipoint videoconference. Photo courtesy of Gurcharan S. Khanna, RIT

Contact Information

Online: **www.usucan.org**

Please direct general inquiries to: **info@usucan.org**

Please direct media inquiries to: **media@usucan.org | (734) 352-7037**

For more information about the Task Force: **www.usucan.org/about/task-force.cfm**