

Revised 30 August 2013, to comport with ARIN policy and new Merit terminology for Members.  
Prior policy, August 8, 2003

### Background

Merit's Internet addresses are used to provide networking services to those organizations served by Merit (its Members). These "legacy" addresses are subject to Merit's Legacy Registration Services Agreement with ARIN, and to ARIN rules regarding their listing in the ARIN internet registry, their use, and their assignments or transfers.

Merit may allocate use of these addresses to its Members connected to its network, but the assignment of the addresses remains solely to and with Merit.

The guidelines for address allocation presented here are not intended to impede or prevent Merit Members from getting the addresses they need, but to guarantee sufficient resources for all Merit users.

### Requesting Internet Addresses

Requests for Internet addresses should be accompanied by a six-month networking plan from the Merit Member making the request. Recommended information for a networking plan would include:

- the number of hosts
- the number of serial links
- the number of LANs
- the types of equipment
- dates of projected implementation/deployment for each of the above
- topology maps

Such information is needed for each point of attachment to Merit's network.

Sites where fewer than 200 addresses are needed do not require a networking plan. Instead, a six-month address utilization projection for the site should be provided.

Requests of 200 to 2000 addresses for a single site must be accompanied by a written routing plan, including the projected utilization over six months time.

Requests for more than 2000 addresses require a conference with Merit Engineering to discuss the written networking plan and its implementation.

Conferences with Merit Engineering will also be required in instances of complicated routing and multiple attachments to Merit's network, even when smaller address spaces are requested.

Agreement on a networking plan will result in address space distribution and routing announcement.

### Requests for Additional Addresses

Every request for additional addresses requires a written networking plan and an assessment of the utilization of addresses

currently held. Additional distributions will be made based on these criteria of planned need and current utilization.

## Review of Address Utilization

The utilization of addresses received from Merit will be periodically reviewed. Merit may request the return of addresses that remain unused for a significant period of time (a year or longer).

## Network Service Providers

Merit Members who are Network Service Providers (NSPs) should apply to Merit for addresses for their clients; a networking plan for each client should accompany each request.

## New Members with Their Own Internet Addresses from ARIN

Merit Merit favors the utilization of addresses from the Merit space. Merit recommends that new Members with a block of addresses smaller than a /19 return the block to ARIN and obtain addresses from the Merit space in exchange.