



## Merit Membership Benefits

### Pathways to Membership

An organization can become a Merit Member by purchasing any ongoing service such as network connectivity, MeritLicensing, MeritMail, MeritVoice, or active membership in the MITE Forum for information technology executives.

Pricing is specific to the purchased service and the Member's needs, and includes an annual \$750 membership fee. The membership fee is waived for organizations that purchase a dedicated connection service package.

**For more information about becoming a Merit Member, please call 734-527-5700 or email [info@merit.edu](mailto:info@merit.edu)**



Merit Network is an independent non-profit organization. Merit prides itself on providing the best solutions for its Members and the Community.

#### Building Community

- Merit regularly hosts technical and discussion-based meetings focused on key areas of interest to Members. These meetings provide a forum for Members to learn from each other and share best practices in the networking arena. Forums include the Michigan Information Technology Executive Forum (MITE), Merit Joint Technical Staff (MJTS), and the Merit Member Conference (MMC).
- The Merit Advisory Council (MAC) has a direct voice to the Merit Board of Directors through which recommendations are provided.

#### Collaboration

- Merit partners with over 20 networks to provide peering relationships between Merit and their network – a direct path to and from their networks for exchanging data.
- Merit is the only Michigan provider of Internet2 Network access.
- Merit is an E-rate eligible Internet Service Provider and has participated in the program since its inception.
- Merit facilitates collaboration between Members and regularly contributes staff and resources to educational and research activities.

#### Uniquely Merit

- Professional Learning events are tailored to the needs of our Members and are offered at reduced cost.
- Members with a direct connection to the Merit network receive significant savings for OnNet traffic (Internet2, Member to Member, and Akamai) across Merit's network.
- Merit offers a variety of specialized services, including MeritLicensing, MeritMail email services, MeritVoice phone service, collocation, disaster recovery, multicasting, cloud services, and more.
- Merit's connections with national initiatives, other regional networking organizations, and Michigan's educational and research communities puts it in a strong position to identify relevant trends, key technologies, and opportunities for learning

#### Support

- 24x7, 365 days a year Merit Support Center for services and connections.
- Member Relations provides high-touch, knowledgeable assistance in finding the appropriate solutions for your organization.

For more information about Merit Network, visit us online at [www.merit.edu](http://www.merit.edu) or call 734-527-5700.

March 2011



## About Merit

Merit Network, Inc. is a nonprofit, member-owned organization formed in 1966 to design and implement a computer network between public universities in Michigan. After 40 years of innovation, Merit continues to provide high-performance networking and services to the research and education communities in Michigan and beyond.

Merit is different from other network providers because our constituency is different. The needs of research and education institutions drive Merit's network infrastructure design. Research and education institutions invest in advanced technical infrastructure and services, such as Merit provides, because of their potential. In fact, these institutions have generally applied advanced networking capabilities long before there is interest or demand in the private sector, and well before the services are fully mature or well understood.

### Why Become a Merit Member?

Merit's Members benefit from our IP backbone network, which extends throughout Michigan and shares exchange points with Internet2, major carriers, and other regional research and education networks. The network is tailored to the requirements of our membership and provides reliable high-speed service to hundreds of organizations.

Beyond networking, Merit provides a variety of related services, including email, voice, video, colocation, and storage cloud services.

Underlying all of these services is Merit's commitment to a collaborative, supportive experience for our Members. Merit Members have direct communication with top management and engineering staff and are encouraged to participate in meetings, product planning, and research activities. The Merit community has grown significantly over four decades. Merit serves 92% of Michigan's Public Universities, 40% of Michigan's Private Universities, 59% of Michigan's Community Colleges, 58% of Michigan's K-12 Intermediate School Districts, and 55% of Michigan's Library Cooperatives.



*As Michigan's research and education network, Merit provides high-speed connectivity and leading-edge services to hundreds of organizations*



### Connected Communities

Schools, libraries, and other organizations in rural communities, such as Escanaba and Alpena, are banding together to create high-speed network consortiums, to share the costs and advantages of having high-speed Internet access.

Organizations in rural locations can utilize Merit Network's expertise to connect their community.



### Professional Development

Merit offers numerous events for training and collaboration.

Merit hosts the Michigan Information Technology Executive (MITE) Forum, a community of practice for IT executives within Michigan.

The Merit Member Conference features important IT and networking topics and offers Members the opportunity to exchange ideas.

