

# The Internet ecosystem & NRENs

Brief Internet history / NREN services / Power of federation

Author: Sami Ait Ali Oulahcen Nouakchott, Mauritania 17-22 February 2025

## Beginnings of the Internet

ARPANET connecting universities and laboratories in late 60s

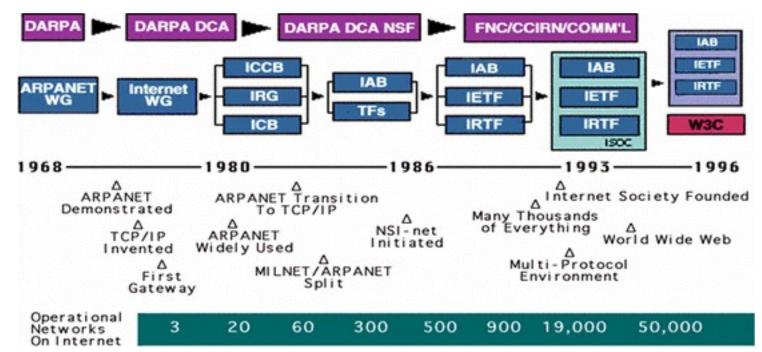
• Universities as natural testing grounds: technical expertise - culture that welcomed experimentation and innovation - shared sense of

purpose and trust ARPANET geographic map 1982 Xerox O Utah Hawaii O NORSAR Rand-Pentagon Condon
Co

Credit: https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/arpanet-anniversary-the-internets-first-transmission-was-sent-50-years-ago-today

### Evolution into commercial networks

- Commercial interests began to shape the general-purpose Internet in the 1980s and 1990s
- Institutionalization of standards and governance bodies



### Internet governance

Bodies assuring uniqueness of internet numbers and domain names



Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)



Standards bodies



The community - NOGs - ISPs - government/regulators

### Re-emergence of NRENs

- Increasing data demands: Genomics, climate science, particle physics generate vast amounts of data requiring high-speed reliable networks
- Innovation and trust: NRENs bring back two important aspects that were lost in commercial networks. Provide platforms for innovating and experimenting with new networking technologies
- Not just ISPs, provide value added services
- Contribution to sustainable development





















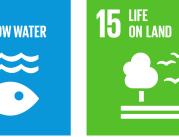




















#### **SDG 4: Quality Education**

NRENs provide high-speed internet connectivity and advanced network services to educational institutions, enabling them to deliver high-quality online education and research programs.



#### SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

NRENs support research and innovation by providing advanced network services, computing resources, and collaboration tools to researchers, industries, and startups.



#### **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

NRENs can support smart city initiatives through research and collaboration on sustainable urban development, leveraging technology to improve urban living conditions.



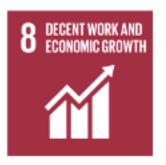
#### **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

NRENs help bridge the digital divide by providing access to high-speed internet and digital resources in underserved areas, promoting equitable access to education and research opportunities.



#### **SDG 13: Climate Action**

NRENs support climate research and monitoring by providing highspeed data transfer, computing resources and necessary infrastructure to climate scientists and researchers.



#### **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

By supporting research and innovation, NRENs contribute to economic growth and the creation of decent jobs in the knowledge economy.



#### **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

NRENs often collaborate with various stakeholders, including governments, educational institutions, and international organizations, to promote research and education initiatives. These partnerships can enhance resource sharing and capacity building.

# NREN services

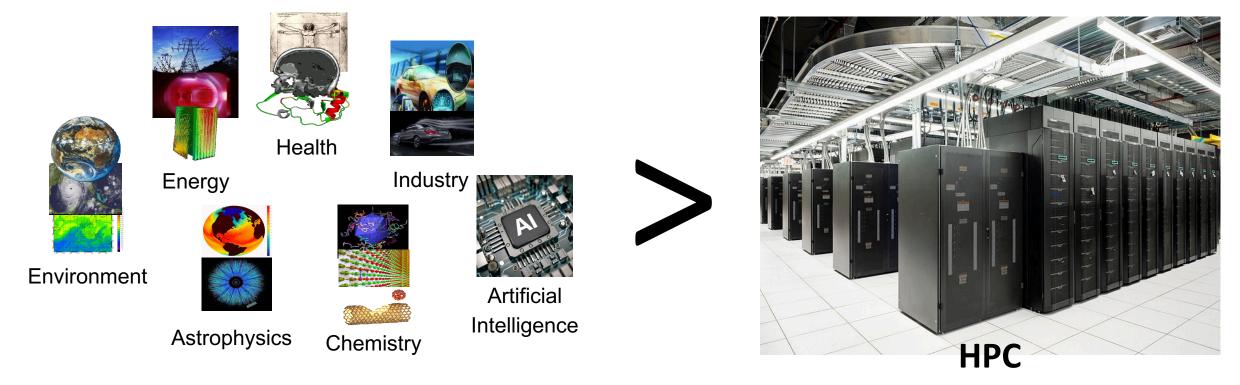
#### The Network

- A network as a collaboration tool and an innovation enabler
- Supporting research through high speed data transfers
- Reaching isolated and underserved areas otherwise non covered by commercial networks



# High Performance Computing

- HPC infrastructure as an enabler for research
- High demand for GPU computing (parallel computing, AI training)



## Tools for access & mobility

- Provide mobility for students/researchers/staff to foster collaboration
- eduroam: international Wi-Fi roaming
- Identity federation: ease of access, single academic identity
- eduVPN: remote access or secure Internet access

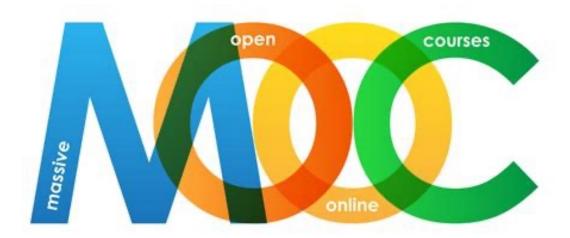






#### Online education

- Online education or Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platforms
- Ensure continuity of courses in challenging times (COVID19 as an example)
- Democratize education

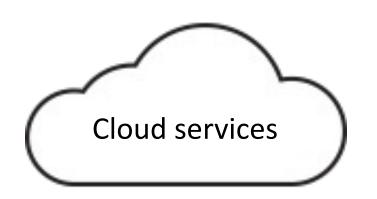


### Collaboration tools

- Video conferencing solutions
- National platform for ongoing research thesis
- Platform for event/conference organizing
- Tools for online surveys, mailing lists, wikis



# Hosting services









# The power of federation

# Bringing the community together

- One of the main roles of NRENs is to bring together the research and education community
- More collaboration, joint research projects, events, and initiatives
- Resource sharing: computing, instrumentation, laboratories

### Bargaining power

- Greater bargaining (negotiation) power
- The bigger the coalition, the better the deals/contracts/prices
- Examples in next slides:

# MARWAN VPLS connectivity

Bandwidth (Mbps)	MARWAN pricing per month (MAD excl. tax)	Approximate operator pricing per month (MAD excl. tax) (*)
200	7 300	10 000 - 20 000
1000	19 200	30 000 - 50 000
2000	23 500	50 000 - 70 000
4000	36 400	80 000 - 100 000
5000	45 000	100 000 - 130 000
10000	75 000	150 000 - 200 000

<sup>(\*)</sup> Conservative approximate prices in Morocco, sometimes higher in real life

### MARWAN Trusted Certificate Service

https://www.marwan.ma



	,
Standard SSL	\$198
Multi-Domain SSL	\$358
WildCard	\$658
Document Signing - Organization (5000)	\$895

- Current contract with HARICA (through GEANT): \$14 000 per year
- Available for all 20 universities

# Further things to negotiate as a federation

- Commercial Video conferencing solutions
- Commercial Cloud procurement
- Equipement procurement

# Questions?