

Merit Overview

Michigan's Premier Education and Research Network



For organizations in Michigan, especially those in the research and education sectors, high-speed networking is a significant strategic advantage. Today, digital networks are similar to railroad systems and interstate highways — they are essential ingredients in economic development and job creation.



Merit Network, founded in 1966 by Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University, was formed to facilitate computer networking for research and education purposes. With nearly five decades of accomplishments, Merit is **Michigan's most experienced network service provider.**

As a non-profit organization governed by Michigan's public universities, Merit operates the most robust and comprehensive IP network in the state, and provides high-performance networking, cybersecurity, communications, professional learning, and cloud-based services to higher education, K-12, library, health care, government, and other non-profit and service organizations.



Merit's mission is to be a respected leader in developing and providing advanced networking services to the research and education community.

Pursuit of this goal benefits a wide audience in the education and research communities and has broad implications for economic development in Michigan and beyond.



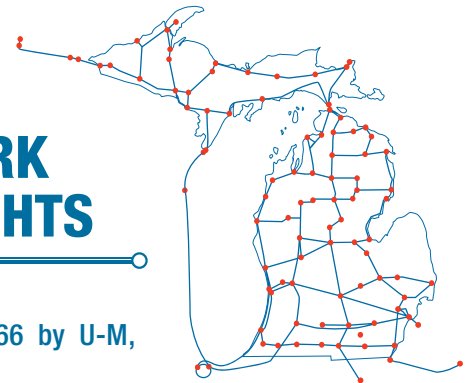
The Merit backbone is comprised of more than 3,800 miles of fiber-optic infrastructure — the core of networking capability and connectivity in Michigan. Additionally, the backbone boasts multiple diverse paths to major connection and peering points in Chicago, IL, Toledo, OH, and Windsor, ON that connect with the commodity Internet and Internet2, peering agreements with private networks, and connections to other research and education networks, with transfer speeds up to 100 Gbps.



Merit also serves as the Internet2 network connector for Michigan. In this role, Merit provides access to Internet2's national high-speed research and education network. Merit offers sponsored Internet2 access to governmental agencies, K-12 schools, libraries and higher education institutions, granting access to innovative learning programs.

NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded in 1966 by U-M, MSU, and WSU
- The longest-running regional network in America
- The Merit backbone consists of over 3,800 miles of fiber-optic infrastructure
- Engineered for optimal performance during peak usage
- Designed to support cloud services and Internet-based applications for organizations of any size
- Servicing Higher Education, K-12, Library, Health Care, Government, and Non-profit organizations



Merit Milestones

A History of Landmarks and Accomplishments

