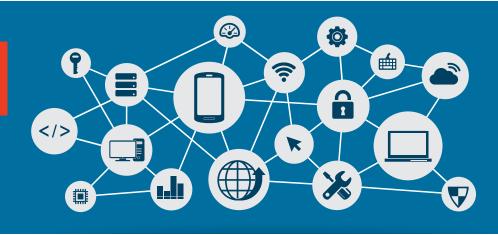
## **Merit Overview**

**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 highperformance 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.

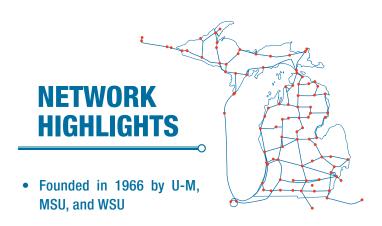


Merit's mission is to be a respected leader in developing and providing advanced networking services to the research and education community.

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.



- 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

History of I	andmarks and Accomplis	aments	
		Merit is formed by the University of Michigan, Michigan State University,	196
	itial funding of \$400,000 from ichigan State Legislature is matched	and Wayne State University.	
909 by	r a \$400,000 grant from the National cience Foundation (NSF).		
50	cience i vunuation (NSI ).	Merit successfully networks the mainframe computers at U-M, MSU,	197
	erit partners with IBM, MCI and	and WSU.	
190/	ichigan Strategic Fund; wins \$39 illion award to manage NSFNET, the		
ca	atalyst for the commercial internet.	Merit offers Internet service to K-12 schools, colleges, and research orgs.	199
N. M.	erit has 200 research and education	Merit, IBM, and MCI partner to create Advanced Networking & Services.	
995 Af	filiates and offers dial-in Internet ervice to over 90% of Michigan.		
		U.S. higher education creates Internet2. With the addition of Ferris State University,	199
		all of Michigan's public universities sit on Merit's governing board.	
	erit provides the first of many Internet2 onnections in the state of Michigan.		
		Merit provides dial-in internet access to Michigan K-12 teachers through the	200
М	ichigan State University, University of	Teacher Technology Initiative.	
	ichigan and Wayne State University are tached to Merit via gigabit ethernet.		
		Merit initiates development of owned fiber-optic backbone for research and	200
	erit implements regional fiber rings; aids planning Michigan Lambda Rail (MiLR).	education in Michigan.	
2004 M	erit and ORION sign historic agreement connect across the U.S./Canada border.		
	Connect across the c.c./ canada border.	Merit completes its fiber backbone infrastructure in southern Michigan.	200
	erit and ORION connect their research		
UUO SI	percomputer Center (OSC) partner to equire fiber from Toledo, OH to Chicago, IL.	Merit unites Michigan peninsulas via fiber	
		connection across Mackinac Bridge; begins offering gigabit connections to Members in	200
	erit upgrades routers on its backbone etwork to 10 Gbps. Merit receives DARPA	Northern Lower and Upper Peninsula.	
	ontrol Plane contract for an intelligent etwork routing project.	Merit receives more than \$100 million in	
		federal grants to help fund REACH-3MC; project will add 2,287 miles of fiber	201
011 ba	erit upgrades 16 nodes on its statewide ackbone network to 10 Gbps. Governing	infrastructure in many parts of Michigan.	
	embers in the Upper Peninsula have 10 pps connectivity for the first time.	Merit President/CEO Don Welch honored	
		by the White House as an Innovator in Infrastructure and Champion of Change.	201
014 fit	erit completes REACH-3MC, expanding per backbone by 59%; Connects 143 new	Merit dedicates Michigan Cyber Range.	
	ommunity institutions and 12 colocation cilities in Lower and Upper Peninsulas.		
		• merit.ed	