

What is FABRIC?

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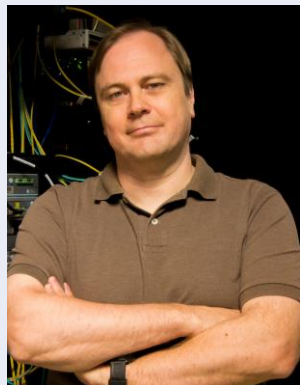
ESnet
ENERGY SCIENCES NETWORK



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

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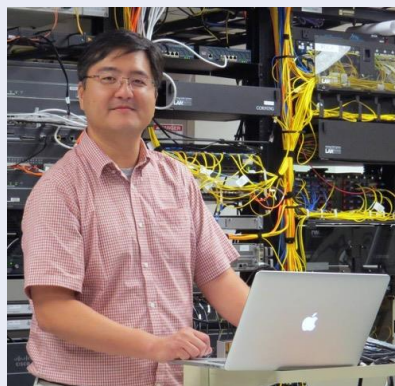
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Why FABRIC?

- The mantra of the last 20 years – ‘Internet is showing its age.’
 - Applications designed around discrete points in the solution space
 - Inability to program the core of the network
- What changed?
 - Cheap compute/storage that can be put *directly in* the network
 - Multiple established methods of programmability (OpenFlow, P4, eBPF, DPDK, BGP flowspec)
 - Advances in Machine Learning/AI
 - Emergence of 5G, IoT, various flavors of cloud technologies
- Opportunity for the community to push the boundaries of distributed, stateful, ‘everywhere’ programmable infrastructure
 - More control *or* dataplane state, or some combination? Multiple architectures (co)exist in this space.
 - Network as a big-data instrument? Autonomous network control?
 - New protocols and applications that program the network?
 - Security as an integral component?

FABRIC for everyone



FABRIC Enables New Internet and Science Applications

- Stateful network architectures, distributed applications that directly program the network



FABRIC Advances Cybersecurity

- At-scale realistic research facilitated by peering with production networks



FABRIC Integrates HPC, Wireless, and IoT

- A diverse environment connecting PAWR testbeds, NSF Clouds, HPC centers and instruments



FABRIC Integrates Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence

- Support for in-network GPU-accelerated data analysis and control



FABRIC helps train the next generation of computer science researchers



FABRIC Core



FABRIC Edge



UMass Amherst



POWDER



UC San Diego



What is a FABRIC node?

- Core and edge nodes have compute, storage and programmable networking capabilities
 - Network programming at the level of OpenFlow, P4, eBPF, DPDK
 - GPUs to support ML applications
 - Ability to interpose compute, memory and storage into the path of fast packet flows
 - 25Gbps, 100Gbps, Nx100Gbps
 - Experimenters access hardware directly (network cards, GPUs, FPGA cards)
- The key is node placement
 - *13 core* nodes located in telco locations at the intersection of multiple high-capacity *dedicated* optical links. Provide sliceable, programmable switching, hierarchical storage and in-network compute
 - *16 initial edge* nodes (also known as ‘hanks’) located on campuses, in lab datacenters to provide base load, serve as gateways for facilities to connect to FABRIC

What FABRIC IS:

- FABRIC is an 'everywhere-programmable' network combining *core* and *edge* components that also link to many outside facilities.
- FABRIC is a multi-user facility with support for concurrent experiments of differing scales facilitated through federated authn/authz system with allocation controls.
- FABRIC is a place to experiment on new Internet architectures, protocols and distributed applications using a mix of resources from FABRIC, its facility partners and connected campuses, and opt-in users.
- FABRIC is extensible – it will continue to connect new facilities like cloud, networking, other testbeds, computing facilities and scientific instruments. BYOE is also an option.



What FABRIC is NOT:

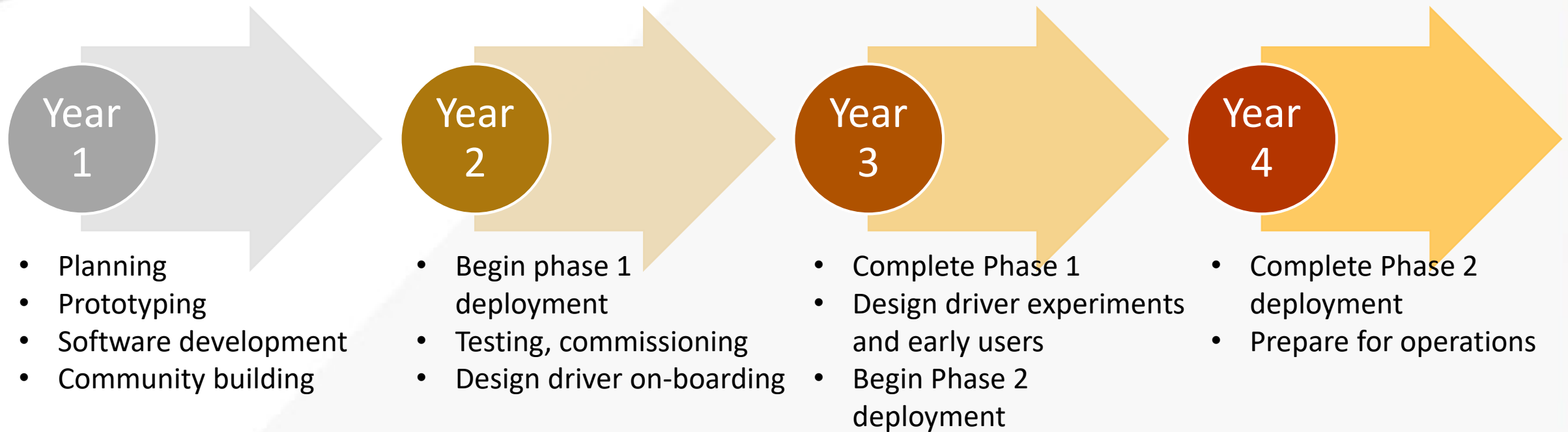
- FABRIC is not an isolated testbed – it will peer at Layer 2 and Layer 3 with a variety of networks, allowing experiment slices to connect to a wide variety of external resources
- FABRIC is not a place for long-term production workloads - it is intended for CI experiments short- or long-lived.
- FABRIC is not a place for real real-world protected (PII or other) data – you can develop such new applications on FABRIC, but the infrastructure cannot support regulated data.
- FABRIC is not a fast new pipe for data between its connected facilities – ESnet, Internet2, and the regional networks provide production capacity, FABRIC provides a place to experiment with new approaches.

Science Design Drivers and Applications

- 4 ‘Science Design Driver’ teams
 - FABRIC-ready experiment use-cases and applications
 - Help formulate design requirements
 - Help validate and commission the facility
 - Leave lasting experimental artifacts - software, experiment profiles, case studies
- Focusing on security, IoT, ML in the network, NDN, advanced transport protocols



Construction Timeline



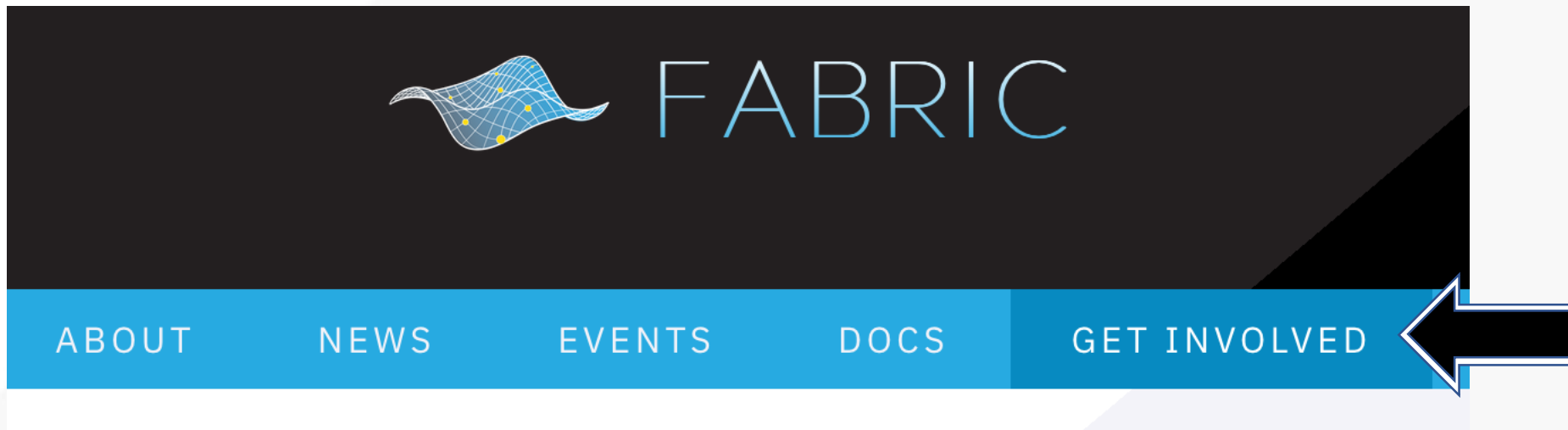
FABRIC Community

- We are looking to build a vibrant community of stakeholders:
 - Experimenters interested in using FABRIC
 - Facility partners
 - Regional and national network providers
- We will be organizing community event workshops (first to be held in Spring of 2020) to share the vision, progress and collect feedback

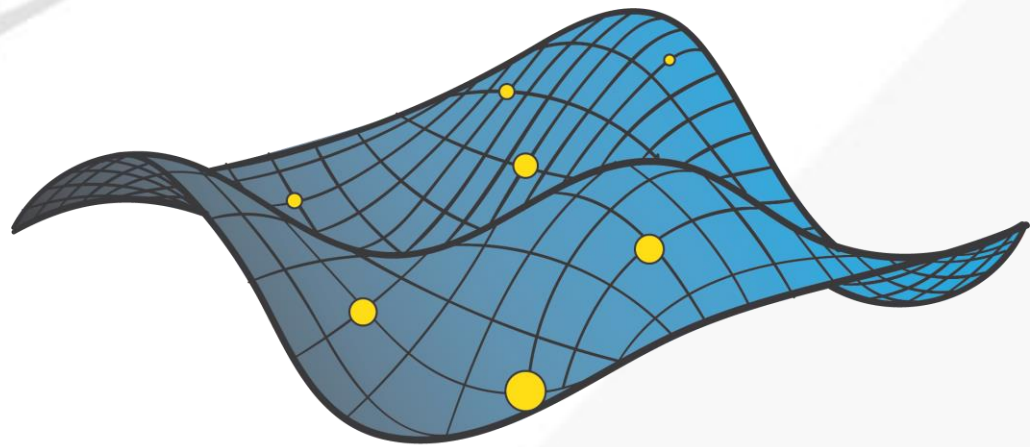
How do I get involved in FABRIC?

- Learn more information about it
- Discuss connecting my network or facility to it
- Volunteer contributing a 'hank' (FABRIC node) on my campus
- Discuss using it for my research

<https://whatisfabric.net>



Thank you!



FABRIC



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Backup Slides

Proposed FABRIC node ('hank')

