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Deliverable DN2.0.1: GÉANT2 Website Content Overview



Deliverable DN2.0.1

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Abstract

This document serves as notification of the launch of the GÉANT2 websites, containing publicly available content describing the activities funded under the GN2 contract, and password-protected internal project documents.

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0 Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to formally notify the European Commission of the establishment of the initial content of the GÉANT2 websites. The sites are:

- www.geant2.net, the official GÉANT2 public internet site
- www.geant2.net/intranet, the project intranet site, for authorised access.

The overall objective of the GÉANT2 internet site is to make the benefits and achievements of the GN2 project known to relevant target groups, including policy makers, NRENs, end users and other actors in and around the European research and education environment.

The public site has been planned with two groups in particular in mind: users and the media. GÉANT2 strongly emphasises end user needs. Site design has therefore taken into consideration the likely information needs of network users. It is also intended that the website should serve effectively as a resource for journalists who might be writing about or reporting on GÉANT2.

The password-protected project intranet provides a repository and access point for project-related information, for use by the project partners. It also contains sections which will be accessible to the European Commission and the project reviewers.

The intranet site is only visible to authorised visitors once they have logged in, and the actual information available to each site visitor depends on their individual access rights.

After launch, it is anticipated that the site will continue to develop and expand. In particular, more publicity materials will be made available, publicly-available Deliverables that have been approved by the EC will be published in the Document Library, and an FAQ section will be made available shortly. Particularly significant milestones will be advertised under the 'Achievements' heading and, where appropriate, on the homepage. As the prototypes developed by the research activities turn into production services, a more complete technical overview will be added under the 'Network' category.

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1 Introduction

This document formally notifies the European Commission of the establishment of the GÉANT2 websites, both public and private (for use by project participants). The sites are:

- www.geant2.net, the official GÉANT2 public internet site.
- www.geant2.net/intranet, the project intranet site, for authorised access.

The sites will run concurrently with the GÉANT website until the end of the GÉANT project (at which point it is intended that the GÉANT website will be archived).

This document details the overall objective, and key principles and design considerations that have guided site planning. It discusses the target audiences of the two sites, and it also provides a view of steps that have already been identified for mid- and long-term development of the site.

2 Aims and Approach

The overall objective of the GÉANT2 internet site is to make the benefits and achievements of the GN2 project known to relevant target groups, including policy makers, NRENs, end users and other actors in and around the European research and education environment. The password-protected project intranet provides a repository and access point for project-related information, for use by the project partners. It also contains sections which will be accessible to the European Commission and the project reviewers.

The site is hosted by DANTE and operates using the same content management system as the GÉANT site. The basic page layout is also the same as is used for GÉANT. The sites are distinguished from one another by use of different colour schemes, forming separate but complementary sites. The key aims that were considered in selecting, structuring and writing content for the GÉANT2 website are as follows:

- To provide a comprehensive description of the work that is being conducted within the project's various activities.
- To highlight themes and initiatives of particular significance within GÉANT2 (for example, the approach to the provision of end-to-end quality of service) and present the overall vision of the project.
- To successfully reach the diverse range of audiences that may have an interest in GÉANT2 – from the novice end-user up to the most experienced networking researcher.
- To maintain a high profile for content that has proven over the lifespan of the GÉANT website to be particularly frequently visited, by locating it in prominent, easily-accessible areas of the site structure.
- To provide a broad, shallow site structure, in line with the “three clicks” rule and to make the site as transparent as possible.
- To provide users with multiple options for routes through the site to the content in which they are interested.
- To build on the experience gained in managing the GÉANT site, to provide a comprehensive, well-organised, user-friendly site. (For example, the amount of text on the homepage has been considerably reduced, and the page now acts as a portal to content deeper into the site. It includes a short overview of the project, and boxes for news and progress updates during the procurement and build of the

network. In addition, it includes space to promote 'hot topics' with a coloured highlight box and a link to the appropriate area).

- To ensure the site's accessibility to disabled visitors. (The selection of colours has been conducted with reference to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)'s accessibility guidelines. Stronger colours were chosen than for previous project websites, in order to comply with the W3C's recommended algorithms for colour contrast and colour brightness.)

3 Target Audiences

A number of key target audiences have been identified for dissemination activity:

- National research and education networks
- The network user community, spanning from networking experts, to research and educational institutions' staff, to researchers, teachers and other (potential) end users
- Policy makers at government and EU-wide levels
- The media.

The websites provide information for all these groups, but are particularly aimed at several high-priority segments.

3.1 Public Site

The public site has been planned with two groups in particular in mind: users and the media. GÉANT2 strongly emphasises end user needs. Site design has therefore taken into consideration the likely information needs of network users.

A specific navigation category entitled 'Users' has been created, to serve as a one-stop shop for information for end-users. In addition, the first (top-level) page in each primary navigation category has been written in such a way as to present the most significant points about each topic as clearly as possible (without oversimplification!). The homepage has also been carefully designed to present key information and topics up front, with links where relevant to more information elsewhere in the site.

Furthermore, it is intended that the website should serve effectively as a resource for journalists who might be writing about or reporting on GÉANT2. Coverage in the media is important, and it is anticipated that the website will form a major element of the dissemination mechanism to this audience. In addition to the information provided under topic headings throughout the site, the 'Media Centre' in particular will act as a resource for this type of site visitor. At launch, it includes:

- The new GÉANT2 brochure
- Press releases and news articles
- Links to articles available online that reference or provide information about GÉANT2

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- A document library, including presentations that have been made at public conferences and events about GÉANT.

Server logs for the GÉANT website continue to highlight the overwhelming interest in the network itself, and within this category, in the topology in particular. Monthly page views for the first page on the network on the present site continue to be around twice that of the next most popular page, while the topology map is consistently the most downloaded file, accessed nearly three times as often as the next most popular item. The information architecture for the current site has therefore been designed with a view to ensuring the continued prominence of the network. In the absence of a topology map while the topology is still under development, clear messages about the current status of the network will be included in relevant locations, and in particular on the homepage.

The public website provides some technical information to address technically-literate visitors who are not actively participating in GÉANT2. This information will grow substantially over time, as the research and service activities develop and reach their various milestones.

3.2 Project Intranet

The information needs of project participants, the European Commission, and project reviewers will be primarily served through use of a dedicated project “intranet” site (<http://www.geant2.net/intranet>). After the launch of the new GÉANT website in October 2003, new restricted-access areas were rapidly added to the existing site structure to accommodate the project’s need to share documents and information, in particular concerning the preparation of the proposal for GÉANT2. For GÉANT2, these areas of the site are presented in a dedicated password-protected intranet, improving their presentation and accessibility due to the additional flexibility this new arrangement provides for structuring the information. The intranet site is only visible to authorised visitors once they have logged in, and the actual information available to each site visitor depends on their individual access rights.

4 Conclusions

After launch, it is anticipated that the site will continue to develop and expand. In particular, more publicity material (including a press pack, case studies and a video) will be made available as these are produced, while publicly-available Deliverables that have been approved by the EC will also be published in the Document Library. An FAQ section will be made available shortly to present information on questions commonly asked by site visitors.

As the activities progress, particularly significant milestones will be advertised under the 'Achievements' heading and, where appropriate, on the homepage. As the prototypes developed by the research activities turn into production services, a more complete technical overview will be added under the 'Network' category.

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Appendix A **Site Maps**

This appendix shows the initial sitemaps for the public GÉANT2 website and the GÉANT2 intranet.

A.1 **GÉANT2 Public Website Sitemap**

- Project
 - Partners
 - Management
 - NREN Support
 - Providing Foresight

- Network
 - Topology
 - Procurement
 - Design and Migration
 - Global Connectivity
 - Operations
 - Services
 - Quality of Service

- Users
 - User Support
 - PERT
 - Events
 - Contact Us

- Achievements
 - Key Facts

- Research
 - Performance Measurement
 - Security

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- Bandwidth On Demand
- Testbed
- Roaming and Authorisation
- End-to-End

- Media Centre
 - News Archive
 - Press Articles
 - Document Library
 - Publications
 - Presentations
 - Order Publications

A.2 GÉANT2 Intranet Sitemap

- Admin
 - Templates

- Docs
 - Deliverables
 - Technical Deliverables
 - NA1 - Management
 - SA1 - Procurement
 - JRA5 - Roaming
 - Policy Committee
 - Agendas
 - Minutes
 - Presentations
 - NA1 - Management
 - Policy Documents
 - Agendas
 - Minutes
 - Presentations
 - NA2 - Dissemination
 - NA3 - User Support
 - SA1 - Procurement
 - Minutes
 - Presentations
 - SA3 - End-to-End QoS
 - JRA1 - Performance
 - JRA2 - Security
 - JRA3 - BoD
 - JRA4 - Testbed
 - JRA5 - Roaming

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- Management
 - Policy Committee
 - PC Meeting 3 December 2004
 - PC Meeting 22 October 2004
 - PC Meeting 15 September 2004
 - Executive Committee

- Ops
 - APM Meetings
 - Operational Procedures
 - Fault Reporting
 - Monthly Service Reports
 - Technical Policies
 - DWS Information

- JRA1
 - Meetings
 - Documents
 - Management
 - Communication Options
 - Related Activities
 - Useful Links
 - W11 - Requirements
 - W12 - Design

- JRA2
 - Meetings
 - Documents
 - Participants

- JRA3
 - Meetings
 - Documents
 - W12 - Requirements
 - W13 - Service Specification

- JRA4
 - Meetings
 - Documents

- JRA5
 - Meetings
 - Documents

- SA3

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- Meetings
- Documents
- Products

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Appendix B Screenshots

This appendix contains images of the homepages for the GÉANT2 public website and private project intranet.



The screenshot displays the GÉANT2 public website homepage. At the top left is the GÉANT2 logo. A navigation menu includes links for 'sitemap | contact', 'Project', 'Network', 'Users', 'Achievements', 'Research', 'Media Centre', and 'Intranet'. A search bar with a 'GO >' button and a link to '[advanced search]' is located in the top right. Below the navigation is a 'DANTE home' button. The main content area features a 'GÉANT2 Home' heading and a 'Welcome to the GÉANT2 Website' section. This section contains a paragraph about GÉANT2 as the seventh generation of pan-European research and education networks, funded since September 1, 2004. It also mentions co-funding by the European Commission and Europe's national research and education networks, managed by DANTE. Below this, there are three highlighted sections: 'The GÉANT2 network will connect 34 countries through 30 national research and education networks (NRENs), using multiple 10Gbps wavelengths [read more about the topology]', 'GÉANT2 is putting user needs at the forefront of its plans for network services and research [more about meeting user needs]', and 'Ensuring high-quality service from one end user to another, over multiple interconnected networks, is central to the aims and approach of GÉANT2 [more on end-to-end service provision]'. A fourth section states 'With GÉANT2, connections to other world regions will continue to be expanded to become a logical extension of the network's pan-European infrastructure [more about global connectivity]'. The bottom of the main content area is divided into 'News' and 'Current Status' sections. The 'News' section includes a link to 'European Commission grants Euro 93 million to upgrade European Research and Education Internet (GÉANT)' and a mention of the 'Performance Enhancement and Response Team (PERT) service launches'. The 'Current Status' section states that tendering for equipment and services is in progress, with network topology and point of presence (PoP) design underway, and that the transition from GÉANT to GÉANT2 will begin in the first quarter of 2005. On the right side, there is a sidebar with a list of logos (GÉANT2, GÉANT, TEIN2, EUMEDCONNECT, ALICE), a user login status for 'John Chevers' with a '[modify your profile]' link and a 'LOGOUT >' button, and a 'Order a Brochure!' button with a link to 'Request GÉANT2 publicity material, free of charge'. At the bottom, there is a footer with links for 'About This Site', 'Credits', 'Legal', and 'Contact', and a 'top of page' button.

Figure B.1: GÉANT2 public website homepage

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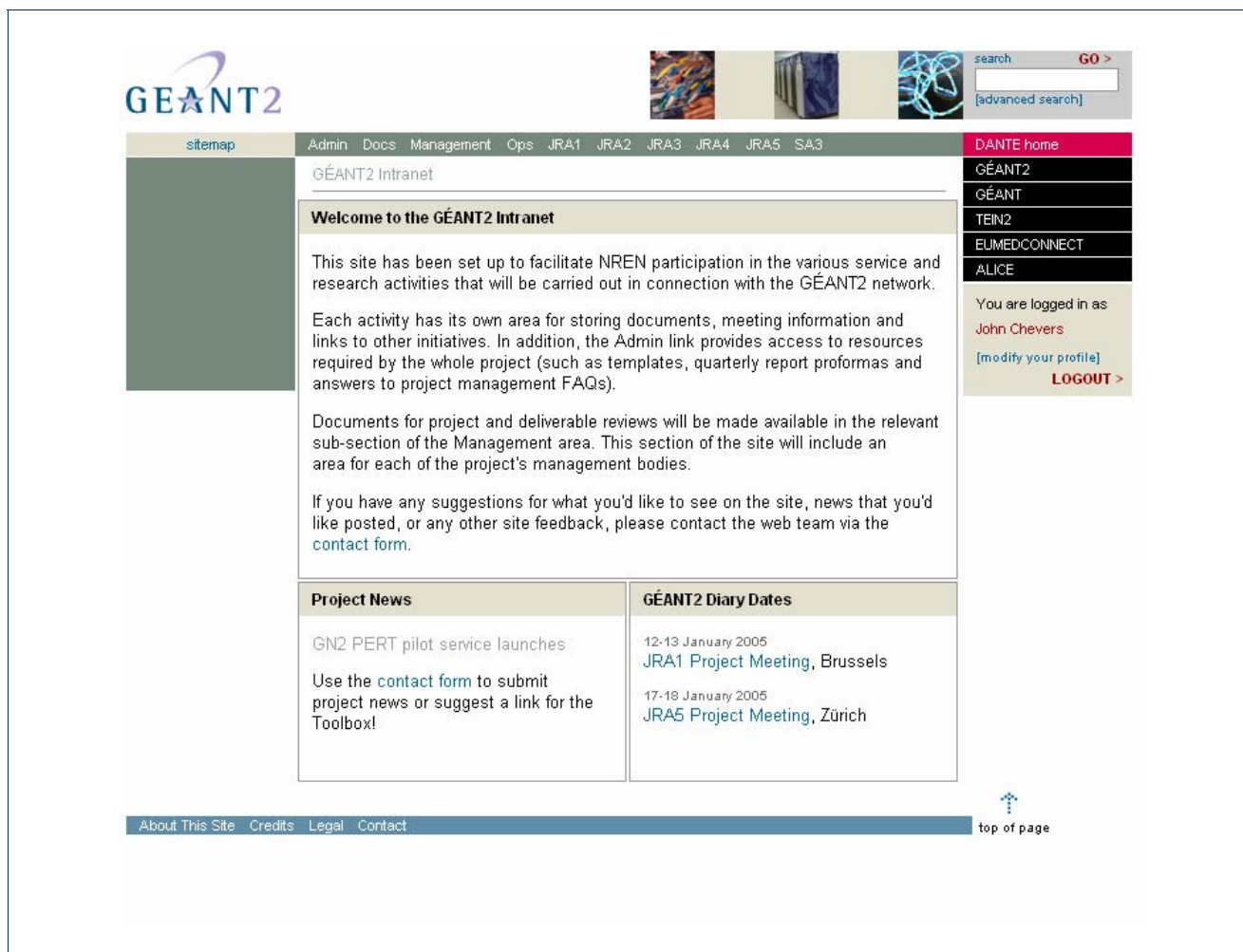


Figure B.2: GEANT2 intranet homepage

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