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## Deliverable DN2.0.4: Interactive GÉANT2 Demonstration



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### Abstract

This Deliverable contains a report on the production of an interactive demonstration of GÉANT2 on CD-ROM.

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## 0 Executive Summary

In order to increase awareness of the capabilities and potential of GÉANT2, an interactive demonstration has been produced.

The demonstration provides a description of how the Internet works, how GÉANT2 works and the services provided by GÉANT2. By including examples of applications, it shows how the benefits of the network are being realised by groups of users across Europe in diverse disciplines. The demonstration is intended for users, opinion formers and decision makers and as a general awareness tool.

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# 1 Introduction

The objective of producing an interactive demonstration is to make the GÉANT2 network and services, and the applications and projects supported by them, visible and known to relevant target groups, in a way that is both educational and light-hearted. Target audiences include users and other players within the European research, education and policy environment, and the demonstration has been designed in such a way that viewers can select the level at which they interact with it.

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## 2 Objectives

The objectives of the demonstration are to increase users' and potential users' understanding of how the network works and the service it offers, with the aim of encouraging them to either actively use the network for the first time or increase their take-up of network capacity.

The design specification was such that it can also be used as a more general awareness raising tool for other target audiences.

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### 3 Target Audiences

The demonstration has several main target groups:

- University researchers, staff of research centres and educationalists
- Government officials and policy makers
- The education and research network community (NRENs)

All are important to the future of the network. The first as actual and potential users of the infrastructure have the potential to increase uptake of network bandwidth and services. The level of the demonstration is pitched at researchers using GÉANT2 at a moderate level or not at all; researchers using GÉANT2 at a high level are already aware of the potential of the European research backbone and actively make use of the high bandwidth and/or specialised services it offers. Researchers in the moderate or zero usage groups are typically intelligent, highly educated and expert in their own field, but with relatively limited knowledge of internet technology and the possibilities brought to the research community by research networks. The fields which they work in can be as diverse as Medicine, Weather Forecasting, Art History, Earthquake Simulation, Bioinformatics and Space Science.

For Government officials and policy makers, the demonstration shows in a simplified fashion how the network connects NRENs, its geographic reach and why research networks are important for the academic and research communities.

Within the networking community, the demonstration can be used at NREN conferences and for those within the research network community – it shows the hierarchy of networks and how end-end solutions can be provided using a coordinated approach.

As well as providing information to users and specialists, it is important that information about GÉANT2 and its benefits are made available to as broad a public as possible. The activity is publicly funded to a great extent; therefore it is appropriate, and relevant, that citizens are made aware of the achievements that this public funding facilitates. By simplifying the approach to the subject, the interactive demonstration appeals to a much wider audience than just the specialist.

The interactive demonstration will be distributed on CD-ROM to NRENs, the Commission and general enquirers, and it will be used at exhibitions and conferences. An online version of the demonstration will also be placed on the GÉANT2 website.

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## 4 Overview of Content & Presentation

The demonstration is presented as a CD-ROM. The packaging and disk face have been designed to complement the style of the GEANT2 DVD packaging, promoting a high-tech, multi media image.

The demonstration is split into four sections, designed so that the viewer can start with any section. These are:

1- How the Internet works

Illustrates how the Internet works and draws attention to some of its limitations

2- How GÉANT2 works

Illustrates the advanced techniques used by GÉANT2 that overcome the limitations of the Internet and deliver services that match the most demanding of applications.

3- GÉANT2 services

Discusses the range of advanced services offered by GÉANT2 that meet the diverse needs of the research and education community.

4- Applications

Examples of use of the advanced services GÉANT2 offers.

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## 5 Conclusion

At the start of the process it was determined that the questions the interactive demonstration should address were:

- How does the network work?
- How is it different from the commercial Internet?
- What can GÉANT2 do for my project?

It was also determined that the end product should be light-hearted as well as educational. As a result of the comprehensive briefing put in place and the careful selection of the production company, these objectives have been achieved at a very reasonable cost.