

# Remember: it's not just the internet!

## Who and what is E2BN?

We are a consortium of 11 Local Authorities in the East of England - run by and for the LAs with the express objective of providing access to the internet, the National Education Network (NEN), and other content and services running over this private network in the most cost-effective way. We are also a Becta approved ISP for Education and work closely with our member Authorities and their suppliers. It is they that provide the final - but critical - link in the chain: the connection from the LA to the School.

## So, what does E2BN provide?

We supply a wide range of services - some of which you will come into contact with and others that are behind the scenes making everything work. Here are just a few of the services we provide regionally, free of charge to schools, that are available to every LA in the region:

- Internet/web-filtering (Becta approved)
- Internet feed to the member Local Authorities
- Learning Platforms (Netmedia & Digitalbrain)
- E-mail (via Netmedia or Digitalbrain)
- Video-streaming
- Video conferencing (over IP) - both "high end" and via web-cams using flash-meeting
- Web Caching
- Firewall & NATing services
- Domain Name Service (DNS)
- ... the list could go on and on.

## and...

Conferences - both our 2-day Annual Conference with hands-on workshops and keynote speakers and 1-day conferences on specific topics like e-safety and Learning Platforms.

## and...

We provide and broker content for school use. For example: Myths & Legends, Making the News, Pathe, Audio Network, Multiclass, Image Gallery (shortly to be taken up nationally), Digital Storytelling. We can also offer training in the use of these resources. And link to other NEN resources provided by the other RBCs and others.

## and...

- Technical services
- Contract & procurement services
- Network interconnections with the NEN, the other RBCs, UKERNA, and JANET
- A voice at the National level when policy is being decided - DfES, Becta, NEN technical design, Learning Platforms, AAA, Shibboleth, etc.

## But why not just buy "broadband" like I do at home?

This is the heart of the matter: the simple answer is that domestic grade broadband is only a "one-way" superhighway - upstream it's more of a rural lane.

The longer answer is that a typical 2Mb circuit sold in the domestic market is highly contended (typically 50:1) and has no guaranteed quality of service. That 50:1 means that "your" 2Mb line is being shared by up to 50 other users!

It will also not be connected to the NEN which means many of the benefits of the private, controlled and secure network will be unavailable to you. Some of the services offered by your LA and E2BN will not be available: for example, the Pathe archive and Audio Network are cost free only for users connecting via the NEN.

So, in short, domestic broadband products really do not cut it in the schools' context when we want to create "content publishers" not just "content consumers".

## What about buying direct from RM or BT?

At the time of writing (March '07) RM do not have an 8Mb synchronous product: the nearest they have is 2Mb which costs £18,000/year in inner London. It will be more elsewhere. This is not connected to the NEN and so cannot make use of the content and other services provided by E2BN as part of the NEN.

BT can provide 8Mb: their pricing is complex but works out at about £6,000 for installation, £9,000/year rental plus £2,000 for each km over 10km distance from the BT supply point. Both cost estimates are subject to site survey and do not include most of the services detailed above.

The *National Education Network* provides schools with a secure network through which a wide range of high quality broadband services and learning content are consistently delivered.

We promise to spread best practice, help schools share limited resources and to promote the creation and sharing of online teaching materials developed explicitly to support all aspects of the national curriculum.

Who *delivers* the NEN?

The NEN is delivered exclusively through the ten Regional Broadband Consortia (RBCs), with the support of Local Authorities and delivery partners UKERNA and Becta. This arrangement is designed partly to help schools take advantage of real economies of scale and, critically, to help ensure that all elements of the network are created in line with agreed standards that are fully interoperable.

[www.nen.gov.uk](http://www.nen.gov.uk) - joineduplearning

E2BN seeks to raise educational standards across the whole community by providing effective broadband services throughout the East of England. Harnessing the full potential of ICT and broadband connectivity, and drawing on good practice and collective expertise, we will continue to develop, share and deliver high quality educational opportunities and contribute to community and economic development in our region.



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