

# European International Academic Networking A 20 Year Perspective

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## Abstract

The European international academic networking development from a number of isolated research projects into the current powerful unified system is discussed. The repeated interplay between discipline-oriented activities and generic academic computing are considered. The relationship between the European activities and those in other regions – of course including the US, but also other regions of the world is traced. The current initiatives for Europe to remain amongst the world leaders, not only in speed of network but also in helping spread the geographic reach are discussed. Finally, some conclusions and current barriers to full network usage are presented.

## Curriculum Vitae

Peter Kirstein is Professor of Computer Communications Systems and Director of Research in the Department of Computer Science, University College London.

Peter Kirstein has been leading research projects in computer communications - mostly in collaboration with European and US colleagues. Amongst these activities are developments in multimedia, active networks, network management, and security applications, and piloting them in the Research Community in Europe and elsewhere. He is currently Director of the NATO and EC-sponsored Silk and SPONGE projects, which are providing a regional satellite based access to the Internet for the NRENs of the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, and leads the multimedia activities in the EC-sponsored ones on IPv6 deployment (6NET) and security (SEINIT).

Peter was awarded the CBE for Internetwork Research. He is a Fellow of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering, Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society, Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science, and Fellow of the Institute of Physics, and the Institution of Electrical Engineering. He has written some 200 papers and one book. He has received the Postel award, the SIGCOMM99 and the IEE Informatics Division Senior award for his contributions to the international development of the Internet.

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1 Introduction
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This talk was intended to summarise European Computer network development over the 20 years that the Joint Network Conferences have been held. Thus I start with a summary of the status of the different networks and regions about 20 years ago. 1984 was a time of rapid change, so that some of the developments mentioned as

































