

For Immediate Release



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## **AUB joins Internet2 network**

The American University of Beirut (AUB) has joined Internet2, the US National Research and Education Network (NREN) prominent US-based computer networking consortium primarily for research and education organizations.

AUB's membership at Internet2 confers a number of advantages in terms of legal, commercial and technical support.

AUB Chief Information Officer Dr. Yousif Asfour, who led the application for membership, said: "By joining Internet2, AUB gains access to all the community and services within Internet2 and puts us in a network with the most prestigious universities in the US."

"Internet 2 membership increases our ability to collaborate with all these universities," he added.

The not-for-profit consortium has also developed new services under the umbrella of so-called "Net+ Services", which are pre-negotiated contracts and technical issues that meet the needs of the education and research.

"It's almost like opening up a store and having access to all its services," said Asfour.

US universities were at the forefront of the development of the internet in the early 1980s, when the National Science Foundation helped establish network access to supercomputers for research and education purposes.

The Internet2 initiative was conceived as the next stage of development when higher education institutions needed dedicated bandwidth to cope with data-intensive activities.

Together they built a 100 Gbit/s network backbone for use by more than 300 U.S. educational institutions, corporations, non-profits and government agencies.

Internet2 remains dedicated to developing and maintaining a leading-edge network capacity, next-generation applications and transferring services for educational and community use.

AUB's membership in Internet2 follows shortly after its successful drive to lead Lebanon into joining the pan-European network GÉANT earlier in 2016. The two are separate but related entities, with GÉANT connecting National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in Europe and Internet2's focus on US educational organizations.

AUB is also part of the Arab states research and education network (ASREN), and—as an American institution in the MENA region—it has led the way in linking the global community of different network consortia.

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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