NREN for AUB

Why Joining the NREN Community is Strategic For AUB

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Founded in 1866
Chartered in New York
Private & Independent
Non-sectarian
Excellence in Education
Research Institution
Liberal arts education
Serve the Middle East
Our vision is to make IT @ AUB a strategic partner with the Academic units to help transform teaching, research, student life & patient care at AUB.
a lecturer in New York can connect his projector to the laptops in a classroom in Beirut to teach...
... and a researcher at the lab can connect his genome sequencer to the HPC at the data center to analyze an ant.
... and doctors can collaborate with each other remotely
... and a physicist on campus can connect his laptop to CERN to discover the next new quark.
... and a student at her dorm connect to a server on the web to invent the new Facebook
... and a Post Doc on the beach can connect her iPad to the AUB storage bank to analyze fish pictures.
... and a student at a coffee shop can connect to her roommate to finish her homework!
We are shifting our focus from managing infrastructure.
... to creating research and teaching services
We are transforming our role from being service providers ...
to become service brokers
We are transforming our staff from mostly engineers.
... to mostly consultants and service managers
We are transforming our environment...

...from a “Castle & Moat” model...
... to a connected community model ...
... by creating an \((\text{Any})^6\) infrastructure

(connect any one, from any where, through any device, at any time, to any resource, to do any thing)
... and joining an NREN ...

A not-for-profit organization providing advanced services to a well bounded community.

At their core, NRENs exist to enable efficient, reliable data communications and networking services for their nation’s research and education communities. NRENs also form a local and international research and education network, allowing local and global collaboration.

The ultimate purpose of an NREN is to serve scholars and innovators, ensuring that Lebanon research and development is contributing to the local and global economy.
To expand our network capabilities ...

...by catalyzing the deployment of cost-effective high speed networks
To utilize external services...

- EduRoam
- Federated services
- Educational Databases
- Shared Libraries
- HPC and specialized computing
- Collaboration services

... by sharing technology and information services and resources from other NREN members
To join a community for education and research organizations ...

... Engage in national, regional and international collaboration in education and research

... Engage in shaping legislation in support the use of technology and networks in education and research
We are shifting our focus ...

...and it all depends on the NREN
The Plan

- Ensure quality service and focus on customer service
- Utilize the “cloud” for commodity services
- Build the (Any)$^6$ environment
- Develop staff to become service managers and “consultants”
- Engage with the community
An NREN helps us achieve all this ...

- Catalyze the rapid deployment of a high speed general purpose digital communications infrastructure
- Share technology services and resources among members
- Engage in national, regional and international collaboration in education and research
- Join a common culture and community for education and research organizations
- Engage in shaping legislation in support the use of technology and networks in education and research
“Mr. CIO, bring down the wall!”

IT @ AUB has to transform
... and moving from a “Standards Based” utilization model ...
... to a “If It Fits, Plug It In” utilization model

End users are ENCOURAGED to play and experiment with technology
53,000 alumni in 105 countries
19 signatories on the UN charter
35 universities
World and regional leaders in all politics, humanities, architecture, engineering and business