

Enabling Researchers and Research Collaboration in Africa: UbuntuNet Alliance

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UbuntuNet Alliance

(also CHAIN Consortium Partner)

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December 2011

- 1. What is UbuntuNet Alliance?**
- 2. EU Africa-Connect**
- 3. Researchers and Research Collaboration**
- 4. EU FP7 project participation : CHAIN and research opportunities**

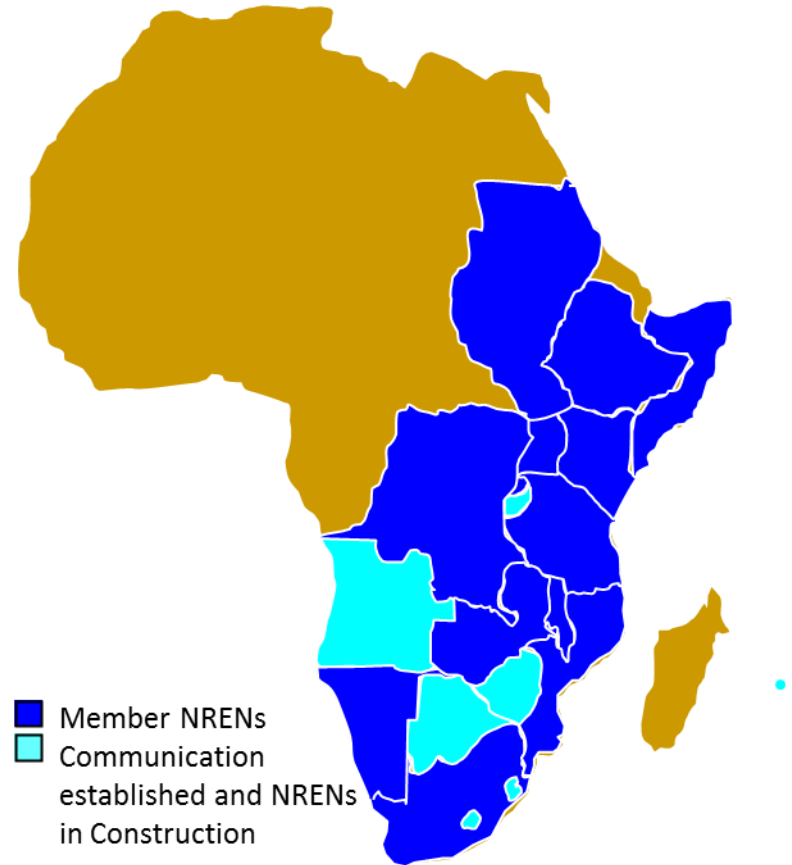
1. What is UbuntuNet Alliance?

- Regional Research and Education Network for East and Southern Africa
- Aim is to interconnect all NRENs in the region and connect them other regional RENs of the world
- Interconnections with ASREN and WACREN will be significant
- Registered as a not for profit Association of NRENs in 2006
- Five founding NRENs in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa
- Today, membership has grown to 13 NRENs, most recent one being Xnet of Namibia
- Secretariat in Lilongwe, Malawi, CEO (Tusu) in Kampala

1. What is UbuntuNet Alliance?

The RREN for Eastern and Southern Africa:

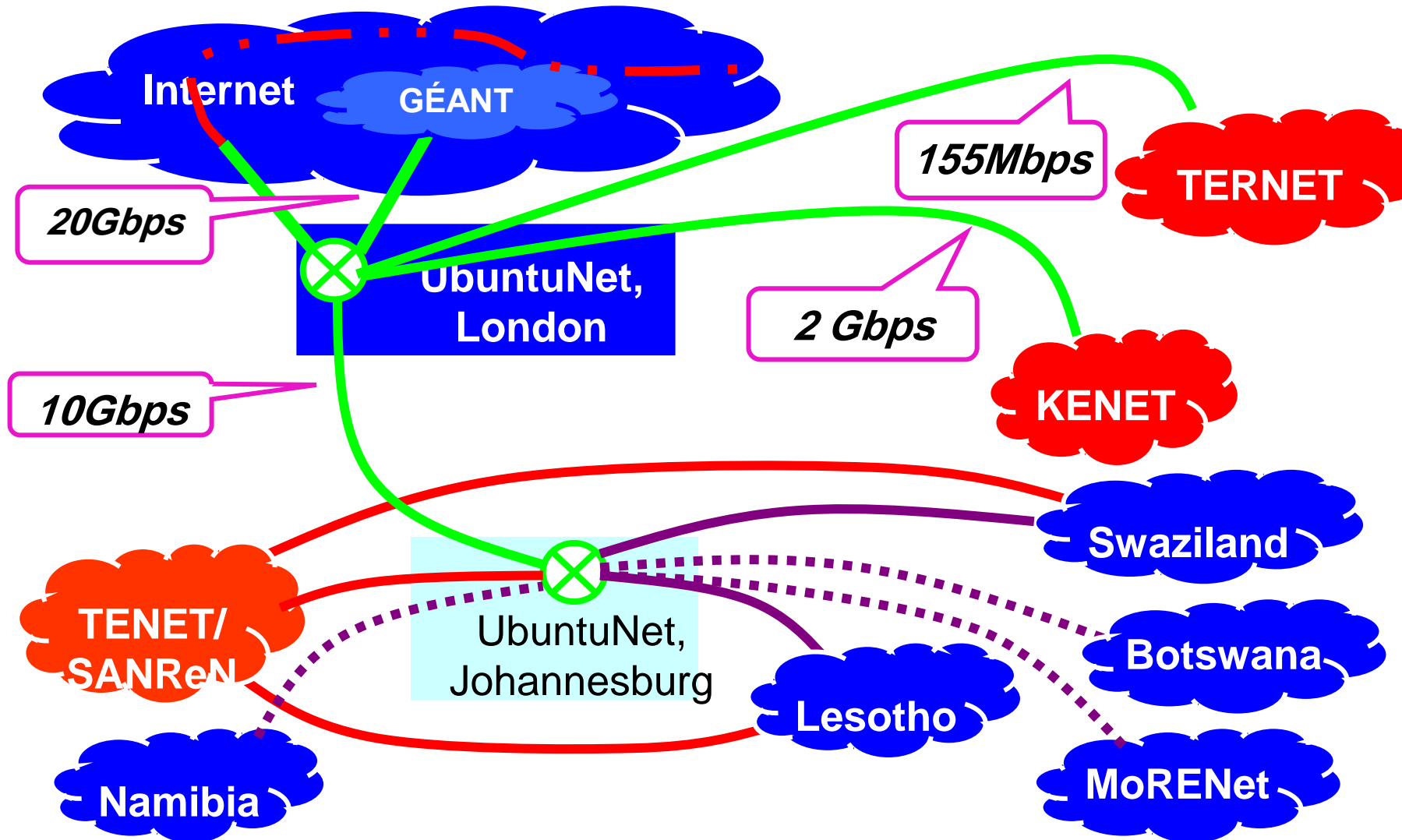
- Eb@le – DRC
- EthERNet - Ethiopia
- KENET – Kenya
- MAREN – Malawi
- MoRENet – Mozambique
- RENU – Uganda
- RwEdNet – Rwanda
- SomaliREN – Somalia
- SudREN – Sudan (*now without South Sudan*)
- TENET – South Africa
- TERNET – Tanzania
- Xnet – Namibia
- ZAMREN – Zambia



****SomaliREN – Somalia and SudREN Sudan are likely to be members of both UbuntuNet Alliance and ASREN**

1. What is UbuntuNet Alliance?

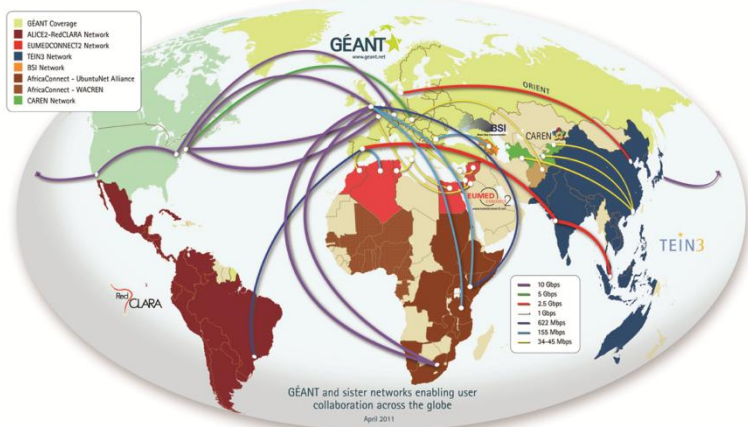
UbuntuNet Current Operations



2. EU AfricaConnect



GEANT  At the Heart of Global Research Networking



The EU AfricaConnect project will interlink UbuntuNet members with each other creating a regional network and then to GEANT and the global REN community

- Signed in May 2011 and to be co-funded 80:20 between EU DevCo and African Partners

Partners are:

- UbuntuNet Alliance and all UbuntuNet Alliance member NRENs
- WACREN and AAU
- DFN, GARR, FCCN, HEANET and SURFnet as EU partners
- DANTE as the Coordinating Partner
- The European Commission and the African Union Commission

Cathrin Stöver of Dante is central to the implementation

3. Researchers and Research Collaboration

1. Strategic Pillar, UbuntuNet Strategic Plan

Support for Content and Research networks

2. CORENA HYPOTHESIS

Improved and affordable regional and international connectivity will enable African researchers to generate a proportionate amount of intellectual property goods to achieve parity with the rest of the world”

3. Ongoing Research

Factors influencing Researcher behaviour in the region

3. Researchers and Research Collaboration

A long term project examining what impacts Researcher Behaviour - the impact of changing environment on research output

- The first output (from Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi) was presented at UbuntuNetConnect 2011 and can be found on the website at http://www.ubuntunet.net/sites/ubuntunet.net/files/tusu_uc2011.pdf
- In brief the environment is not currently conducive, with youthful respondents with heavy teaching load and limited access to resources to support their research, low institutional value placed on research in terms of the reward system and little exploitation of the resources that could be tapped in a fully functioning online environment.
- However a significant number of research undertakings were carried out with international collaborators
- There will be more data being released over the lifetime of the research and it is hoped that there will a measurable change in the research environment

4. EU FP7 project participation : CHAIN and research opportunities

UbuntuNet Alliance has greatly benefitted by being a participant in three EU FP7 Projects :GLOBAL, ERINA4Africa (complete) and now

CHAIN



The CHAIN project aims to coordinate and leverage recent efforts with a vision of a harmonised and optimised interaction model for e-Infrastructure and specifically Grid interfaces between Europe and the rest of the world. The projects will provide African and EU policy makers with a detailed analysis of exploitable scenarios of existing and potential e-Infrastructures in Africa illustrating the return on infrastructure investments.

Much more will be presented on CHAIN later in the conference

4. EU FP7 project participation : CHAIN and research opportunities

UbuntuNet-Connect CHAIN pre -
Conference Workshop on Research
Applications and E-Infrastructure and
CHAIN PMB, Nairobi 21- 25
November 2011

This presented the opportunity to
identify potential applications and
research teams in the East and
Southern Africa region





Many thanks to

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the CHAIN Project,
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www.ubuntunet.net

www.ubuntunet.net/nuance

(bilingual monthly e-newsletter)