



Press release

About the union of three German ISPs forming the world's largest data hub

15 years DE-CIX: the center of the Internet world is in Frankfurt

Frankfurt/Main, May 4, 2010 +++ DE-CIX, the central, international Internet Exchange in Frankfurt am Main (www.de-cix.net) celebrates its 15th anniversary in spring 2010. What started 15 years ago with the union of three Internet Service Providers, is today the largest Internet Exchange in the world. In April 1995, the German Internet enterprises EUnet Deutschland, NTG/Xlink, and MAZ connected their networks to form the „German Commercial Internet Exchange, “ DE-CIX. With their market share of about 90 percent together, the Internet pioneers linked almost all Internet connections in Germany, however, at the modest dimensions possible in 1995: all three were connected to the first DE-CIX with a bandwidth of 2 Megabits per second each.

As a comparison: Today, in 2010, Internet connection with a bandwidth of 16 Megabits per second is as common in every household as running water, and our daily life is unthinkable without it: We send pictures, films, and audio files over the Internet, shop online, watch web TV, and increasingly use the mobile Internet. We google, we blog, and we twitter on the social web 2.0 for all it's worth, and we see to it that data throughput at DE-CIX doubles year after year. The DE-CIX interconnection infrastructure currently interconnects 350 Internet Service Providers from 40 countries including big players like Yahoo, Google, and Microsoft with data transfer rate peak values of up to one Terabit per second and rising. The most significant Internet Exchange in the world today is in Germany.

„We chose the name ‘German Commercial Internet Exchange’, for short, DE-CIX, on purpose back then,“ remembers Arnold Nipper, co-founder of DE-CIX and its technical director to this day. „We wanted to bring the Internet out of the academic corner and create a commercial use for the Internet.“ DE-CIX started in 1995 with a capacity of 10 Megabits per second. Andreas Schachtner remembers: „We chose Frankfurt am Main back then because it was located roughly in the center between the founders: Eunet in Dortmund, Xlink in Karlsruhe, and MAZ in Hamburg. “

The switch infrastructure at DE-CIX today is laid out in a star shape and failsafe as it is spread over several data centers in the city of Frankfurt. By using switching technology of the newest generation, DE-CIX enables the maximum data transfer of up to 40 Terabits per second. The reasons for the lasting exponential growth of data transfer are on one hand multimedia contents that are increasingly distributed via the Internet. On the other hand, the growing numbers of Internet Service Providers – no longer only from Germany - connected to DE-CIX contribute to the growing data stream. „Especially for the booming broadband markets in Eastern Europe, DE-CIX has become the most significant exchange point over the last few years,“ says Frank Orlowski, DE-CIX Business Development and Marketing Director since 2006.

About DE-CIX

DE-CIX German Internet Exchange is the central, international Internet Exchange in Frankfurt am Main. DE-CIX enables the exchange of IP-traffic, the so called peering between Internet Service Providers through a failsafe and highly scalable switch infrastructure. Founded in 1995, DE-CIX today is the most important Internet exchange for Central and Eastern Europe, and the largest Internet exchange worldwide for data throughput. Over 350 ISPs from over 40 countries carry out an essential part of their Internet traffic through DE-CIX. The independent carrier-neutral owner and operator of the Internet exchange is DE-CIX Management GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of eco e.V., German Internet Industry Association.

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