FAQ for IEEE Intercloud Testbed

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1. **Does it cost an "entity" (Company, University, Government Division) anything to join?**

   No. Since beginning the initiative in 2012 the IEEE is waiving any fees for membership.

2. **Can an Individual Join? Is there a fee for that?**

   Yes, an individual "Subject Matter Expert" can join. No, there is no fee for this, ever. They have full rights contribute to the project just as any other individual who is part of an entity in the project does except for voting on governance issues.

   Individual Subject Matter Experts are nominated be a current Member and membership is approved by the Executive Committee.

   Individual Subject Matter Experts or their entity affiliation names or logos are not listed in marketing activities (web site, press releases, etc). However, their names may be visible on mailing lists, work attribution, or committee participation.

3. **How will my entity name be used in announcement and marketing?**

   Marketing and use of member names and logos will be strictly controlled by the Executive Committee. There will be no marketing activities using your name and logo without your advanced permission. You entity name and logo will be listed on the Project web site as a "participant". Your entity will be invited to provide supporting quotes as appropriate for any press releases and other purposes. No individual member will be permitted to issue any documents, articles, talks, or public communication on behalf of the Project as a whole.

4. **How much work or resource am I committing to**?

   There is no set or hard commitments at all. Members are encouraged to contribute hardware, data center space, network connectivity, operating clouds, software development, documentation resource, or any type of participation in the technical project they choose to donate.

5. **How is this different from the P2302 standards effort? Is it a standards group?**

No, it is not a standard group. The P2302 Intercloud Standard Working group is organized identically to other IEEE standards working groups, and operates under the charter and supervision of the IEEE Standards Association.

The IEEE Intercloud Testbed Project is more like an "industry association". It is organized under a different part of the IEEE called the IEEE Industry Connections Program. There is an Executive Committee which includes Members. Many of the Policies and Procedures are copied from the NFSNET Backbone Services (the original ARPA Internet project) and the PlanetLab Consortium documents. It is an Industry and Educational, strictly non-commercial "lab".

The technical blueprints from which the IEEE Intercloud Testbed will begin will be from the P2302 Working Group. The IEEE Intercloud Testbed will create functioning, real world federated clouds, and feed back advice to the P2302 Working Group who has a charter to create a standard which will actually work., We anticipate good collaboration between the two with the optimal result being a technologically synchronized standards and testbed.

6. **What is the relationship of the Intercloud Effort to the OGF Cloud Plugfest?**

The OGF has a project called Cloud PlugFest based around API compatibility of various OCCI implementations. The European FP7 Helix Nebula project has also taken this approach. The industry is calling this API-gateway architecture a "Multi-Cloud" approach. This is ideal in situations where there is a user (like a Grid or HPC user) wanting to access several clouds to fulfill his/her computing requirements. Generally this is for academic and research computing constituencies as this technology architecture is "from the User into the Network" type of "explicit demand for resources" where the user is very specifically controlling the computing they want through the user-level API's. This also can work for companies who absolutely must access different public clouds and have the IT staff to operate a specific gateway box, or can write code. Architecturally this approach is a UNI compatibility layer.

The "Intercloud" approach, which is the subject of the work of the IEEE P2302 Working group as well as the IEEE Intercloud Testbed is ideal for large public/commercial Mobile and Internet scenarios, or Enterprise cloud deployments in conjunction with Telco MPLS/VPN. This technology architecture is "from the Network to the User" with "implicit demand for resources" using signaling (routing) like protocols "underneath" where the user is unaware of what is happening behind the scenes. Think of it as similar technology to Mobile Roaming, or the Public Internet ability for any browser to access any web site on the Internet. Architecturally this approach is an NNI signaling layer.

To that extent they are similar projects with different goals and architectures.