



CineGrid FAQ

CineGrid Mission Statement

CineGrid's mission is to build an interdisciplinary community focused on the research, development, and demonstration of networked collaborative tools, enabling the production, use and exchange of very high-quality digital media over high-speed photonic networks.

1. What is CineGrid?

CineGrid is a non-profit international membership organization administratively based in California.

CineGrid has been established to promote research, development and deployment of new distributed applications of ultra-high performance digital media (sound and picture) over advanced networks, using Grid computing technologies for networked collaboration.

CineGrid members explore the feasibility and trade-offs of different networking approaches suitable for emerging applications of rich-media intensive forms of art, entertainment, distance learning, scientific visualization, remote collaboration and international cultural exchange. To support members' research, CineGrid organizes network test beds prepared to host a variety of experimental digital media projects. Designed for very high bandwidth requirements, these network environments provide appropriate security safeguards between a limited numbers of "trusted" users around the globe.

CineGrid periodically organizes inter-disciplinary workshops and demonstrations to share results and identify new avenues of research. Education and training of next-generation digital media professionals is an explicit goal.

CineGrid activities are designed to help members foster new user communities that are eager to share their cultural, technical and human creativity with colleagues across the globe, linked by CineGrid

2. How is CineGrid organized?

CineGrid was formed as a California non-profit corporation in 2006. CineGrid has applied for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board and is awaiting decisions from both entities.

CineGrid has a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee drawn from the Board of Directors and members, as well as an advisory committee, drawn from the Executive Committee and invited industry leaders.

The CineGrid Project Review Committee, drawn from the Executive Committee, will evaluate submitted proposals and make recommendations.

CineGrid is funded by membership fees, corporate partnerships, research sponsorships, grants and project fees. As a non-profit corporation, membership fees, donations, and grants are tax deductible to the extent allowed under the law. All prospective members, donors and grantors should contact a tax advisor for details.

CineGrid operates on a fiscal year of January 1 to December 31.

3. Why CineGrid now?

The CineGrid initiative is aligned with three major trends:

- Spreading deployment of a new generation of 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps digital networks, capable of moving extremely high-quality digital media very quickly between devices, systems, users and collaborators
- Maturing implementation of Grid computing, which fosters the development of software tools to securely manage the high performance distributed workflows needed in support of digital media applications
- Increasing demand for higher quality digital media exchange among remote collaborators in science, education, research, entertainment and art, as well as increased demand for networked distribution of high quality digital media around the world

4. What does CineGrid provide members?

- The CineGrid non-profit organization provides membership services: acts as liaison between the members, funding organizations and related public and private organizations; undertakes fundraising activities; acts as the secretariat for working groups; maintains the CineGrid website; promotes CineGrid activities; and sponsors workshops and other events
- CineGrid offers members an integrative approach to promote funding and to provide a framework for groundbreaking digital media experiments
- CineGrid provides a forum for members to exchange information and cultivates professional communities through workshops, demonstrations and other events
- CineGrid offers members access to CineGrid Exchange digital media content in various formats, with the content collected, archived, restored and/or produced live by CineGrid members and other cooperating organizations. CineGrid Exchange content may include artistic, entertainment, scientific, educational and documentary materials that can be used by CineGrid members non-commercially with documented permissions from copyright holders as appropriate
- CineGrid may also engage in grant-giving activities to promote research, education and public/professional awareness of digital media applications running over next generation optical networks
- While CineGrid does not “own” any networks itself, the CineGrid networking infrastructure is generously made available by CineGrid members and other cooperating organizations that operate research and educational photonic networks around the world. These networks have been designed to support scientific research and educational applications on a regional, national and international scope. Leaders within the research community, recognizing that digital media applications are potentially an important new use for networks, have agreed to support CineGrid by opening their networks on a limited basis for approved CineGrid projects

- CineGrid sponsored projects will be able to utilize both Layer 2 (Ethernet VLAN) and Layer 3 (TCP/IP) connectivity, with a networking research focus on experimentally testing Layer 2 point-to-point connectivity techniques and methodologies to create so-called “LambdaGrids” optimized for extreme digital media applications

5. Who is eligible for CineGrid membership?

- CineGrid members include corporations, laboratories, universities and other educational or research institutions, non-profit and other public organizations that currently use or wish to use ultra high performance digital media as a means of discovery, education and collaboration.
- CineGrid members, institutional and individual, should be involved in the creation, distribution or use of high quality digital media content, including the accelerated preservation of cultural heritage assets captured in picture and sound
- CineGrid members also include manufacturers and/or developers of technology and tools who wish to supply their products for use in CineGrid-hosted projects and events

6. How to become a CineGrid member?

- CineGrid membership is limited and requires payment of membership fees upon acceptance of a membership application. Members will be accepted based on their willingness to collaborate, the resources they bring to specific projects, and their ability to connect to the CineGrid networks
- All CineGrid members bear their own expenses for their “first/last mile” local connections
- All CineGrid members bear their own expenses to implement their own projects under their own management. Interested applicants should submit a completed membership application form, according to detailed instructions found at: <http://cinegrid.org/membership/> (Note: not yet active)

7. What levels of CineGrid membership are available?

CineGrid membership is open to corporations, universities, non-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals from any country granted access to the research networks.

CineGrid offers four levels of annual membership: Gold, Silver and Bronze and Individual. Annual membership fees of all types will be used to support CineGrid workshops, educational programs, public demonstrations and promotional activities.

7.1. Gold Membership

Gold membership provides the following benefits:

- Representation on the CineGrid Executive Committee
- Public credit as Gold members at all CineGrid events
- Four discounted membership registration fees for attendees at CineGrid workshops and events
- Acknowledgement on CineGrid website and publications, including logo and hyperlink to organization
- Acknowledgement in CineGrid newsletters and publications, including log
- Participation in live distance-learning sessions distributed to CineGrid nodes

- Gold access to CineGrid Exchange content
- Access to CineGrid membership directory
- Access to attendee lists at CineGrid workshops and events
- Access to members-only section of the CineGrid website
- Membership in CineGrid Working Groups
- Inclusion of member-sponsored events on CineGrid website calendar

Annual Gold membership fees:

Corporate members:	\$20,000 per year
Educational and other non-profit members:	\$10,000 per year

7.2. Silver Membership

Silver membership provides the following benefits:

- Public credit as Silver members at all CineGrid events
- Two discounted membership registration fees for attendees at CineGrid workshops and events
- Participation in live distance-learning sessions at a CineGrid node
- Acknowledgement on CineGrid website and publications, including hyperlink to organization
- Acknowledgement in CineGrid newsletters and publication
- Silver access to CineGrid Exchange content
- Access to CineGrid membership directory
- Access to attendee lists at CineGrid workshops and events
- Access to members-only section of the CineGrid website
- Membership in CineGrid Working Groups
- Inclusion of member-sponsored events on CineGrid website calendar
- Credit of the annual fee towards upgrade to Gold Membership in any calendar year

Annual Silver membership fees:

Corporate members:	\$10,000 per year
Educational and other non-profit members:	\$5,000 per year

7.3. Bronze Membership

Bronze membership provides the following benefits:

- Public credit as Bronze members at all CineGrid events
- One discounted membership registration fee at CineGrid workshops and events
- Participation in live distance-learning sessions at a CineGrid node
- Acknowledgement on CineGrid website and publications, including hyperlink to organization
- Acknowledgement in CineGrid newsletters and publications
- Bronze access to CineGrid Exchange content
- Access to CineGrid membership directory
- Access to attendee lists at CineGrid workshops and events
- Access to members-only section of the CineGrid website
- Membership in CineGrid Working Groups
- Credit of the annual fee towards upgrade to Silver or Gold Membership in any calendar year

Annual Bronze membership fees:

Corporate members:	\$5,000 per year
Educational and other non-profit members:	\$2,500 per year

7.4. Corporate Affiliate Membership

Corporate affiliate membership provides the following benefits:

- Available for affiliate companies of existing CineGrid Gold members
- Complementary membership level upgrade – Silver-to-Gold (non-voting) or Bronze-to-Silver
- Please see additional membership details under appropriate category above

Annual Corporate Affiliate membership fees:

Silver (upgraded to Gold / non-voting) members:	\$10,000 per year
Bronze (upgraded to Silver) members:	\$5,000 per year

7.5. Individual Membership

Individual membership provides the following benefits:

- One discounted membership registration fee at CineGrid workshops and events
- Access to CineGrid membership directory
- Access to members-only section of the CineGrid website
- Membership in CineGrid Working Groups
- Access to pre-recorded webcasts of CineGrid Exchange educational sessions (via network)

Annual Individual membership fees:

Individual members:	\$500.00 per year
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8. What are the guidelines for CineGrid project proposals?

- CineGrid has been established to foster projects between CineGrid members using high speed networks
- CineGrid members can propose CineGrid projects which are non-commercial or pre-commercial, such as field trials, proof-of-concept demonstrations, technology test bed experiments or first-of-a-kind remote collaborations
- CineGrid projects can explore all kinds of distributed media production, remote mentoring, remote-controlled scientific research, interactive collaboration and international cultural exchange not possible without a global high-speed networking infrastructure
- All CineGrid projects should incorporate significant practical, research, experimental or educational aspects that can be reported to other CineGrid members through presentations at CineGrid workshops and via CineGrid Exchange remote sessions. CineGrid Working Groups provide an additional forum for ongoing discussions of projects
- All CineGrid members will be asked to register all projects with the CineGrid Project Review Committee, by filling out a web-based project information form describing the principal investigators and participating organizations, the nature of the project, network resources required, and other relevant details
- In order to increase awareness of CineGrid activities, all projects operated by CineGrid members under the CineGrid “umbrella” will be listed on the CineGrid website
- CineGrid members requiring assistance with a project should submit a supplemental project proposal to the CineGrid Project Review Committee outlining their goals, what resources they can bring to the project,

what additional resources they require, and whatever assistance they desire from the CineGrid community. Proposals will be evaluated on merit, innovation, scope, focus, and feasibility.

- The Review Committee has the authority to accept/reject proposals, assess special CineGrid fees on a case-by-case basis, and/or allocate CineGrid grants when available. As appropriate, the Review Committee may suggest modification of proposals or recommend collaboration with other CineGrid members
- A complete guide to submitting supplemental project proposals to the CineGrid Project Review Committee can be found at www.cinegrid.org/projects submission (Note: not yet active)
- A CineGrid project needs to involve two or more CineGrid members
- The CineGrid name and logo can only be used to describe projects that have been accepted by the CineGrid project Review Committee

9. What are possible CineGrid project topics?

CineGrid projects should promote research on topics that include, but are not limited to:

- Mastering of content for secure distribution at highest quality
- Pre-production collaborative design & planning
- Digital dailies, interactive viewing & mark-up
- Distributed post production for both picture and sound
- Digital archiving, digital film restoration and long-term preservation of digital media
- Quality assessment and quality control of digital sound and picture
- Education and mentoring of next generation media professionals
- Remote lectures and interactive teaching
- Interactive telepresence
- Collaborative workspace design
- Collaborative research with an emphasis on access to remote data visualization
- Joint development of training methodologies
- Live performance multicasting

CineGrid projects should promote development and deployment of technologies that include but are not limited to:

- Secure distribution - file transfer and streaming, multicasting, scheduling, session management, protocols, security, anti-piracy and codecs
- Interactive video conferencing over IP using HD or SHD
- Terabit LAN architectures based on 1GigE and 10GigE
- Fast, scalable storage for Terabit LAN workgroups
- Networked visualization architectures for remote file analysis or enhancement
- Networked digital active archives of cinema and television for education and media research, including research of file formats, metadata, media longevity
- Image evaluation techniques and research into perception of very high quality media, including calibration and color management
- Advanced display technologies including: direct view and projection, mono and stereo, cinema and video, monolithic and tiled

CineGrid Working Groups (WG) have been initially defined to cover:

- WG1. CineGrid Network R&D
- WG2. Building the CineGrid Infrastructure
- WG3. Networked Audio Solutions

- WG4. CineGrid Archive, Preservation, Restoration & Exchange Program
- WG5. Digital Filmmaking
- WG6. Advanced Picture & Sound Systems: 4K and Beyond
- WG7. Distance Learning, Remote Mentoring and Training for Digital Media

10. CineGrid legal disclaimer

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CineGrid, as an organization, will not create, own or hold proprietary intellectual property rights (IPR) and will not legally be party to any IPR agreements.

It is up to members or other parties entering into specific collaborative projects to agree among themselves how any IPR will be handled during the CineGrid experimental stage, or in any subsequent deployment.

All non-disclosure agreements (NDA) covering confidential information exchange among CineGrid members must be executed directly between the parties involved.

CineGrid is not responsible for the results of members' experiments, nor is CineGrid obligated to maintain any particular level of network services or security protections, nor is CineGrid liable for any damages due to loss of data, or unavailability of networks, or third party claims arising from the use of CineGrid.