

# NETWORKING IN ASTRONOMY – PRACTICE, POSSIBILITIES, CHALLENGES

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We overview wide area networking in astronomy, discussing history, present practice and future possibilities. We describe applications which will be possible in the near future, and their bandwidth and QoS requirements: i.) transport of observational data; ii.) remote observing; iii.) security monitoring; iv.) mirroring data to geographically distant sites; v.) cheap videoconferencing, VoIP; vi.) publicly accessible large databases; vii.) Virtual Observatory; viii.) QoS.