



## AARNET launches a new mirror service for access to open source software distributions

Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNET) has hosted a mirror service since 1997. The mirror is a dedicated archive hosted on one or more servers for users surfing the web to be able to download popular open source software. The original AARNET mirror was created in Australia by AARNET in partnership with The University of Queensland and The Queensland Regional Network Organisation to allow popular software downloads to be locally accessible so that expensive international traffic costs could be avoided. The AARNET mirror has proved to be very popular, and over the years a number of upgrades have been made to ensure its relevance and to keep up with increased user demand.

Recently, AARNET took the decision to revamp its entire mirror infrastructure. This decision was taken in line with the roll out of the AARNET3 network. The new AARNET mirror uses the latest hardware for faster performance and a vastly expanded disk subsystem. It has been deployed with a dedicated connection to the AARNET3 backbone. This means that it can support data rates at multi gigabit speeds with the option to upgrade that connection to 10Gbps in the future. Additional disk space has provided a larger software archive coverage that has been populated with up to date software and archive distributions. This means that Australian users can benefit from fast, reliable and high performance access to a wider range of open source software distributions.

Chris Hancock, CEO, AARNET, said, "The new AARNET mirror is an important resource that has been delivered in response to our customers needs. It offers high speed access to software with our AARNET connected sites who can make use of this resource as a value add service that forms part of AARNET's on.net subscription fee. Our hope is that the mirror remains popular and that it continues to be a rich source for developers, educators and end users."

The new AARNET mirror goes online today. The website address remains unchanged at <http://mirror.aarnet.edu.au>. The new mirror does reside on a different IP address subnet. This may affect access where firewall policies are strictly applied. For more information about the mirror including details about how to make access to the mirror available to your organisation, please contact AARNET's mirror team at [mirror@aarnet.edu.au](mailto:mirror@aarnet.edu.au).

### About AARNET

AARNET Pty Ltd (APL) is the company that operates Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNET). It is a not-for-profit company limited by shares. The shareholders are 37 Australian universities and the CSIRO. AARNET provides high-capacity leading edge Internet services for the tertiary education and research sector communities and their research partners. AARNET serves more than one million end users who access the network through local area networks at member institutions. For further information, please visit: [www.aarnet.edu.au](http://www.aarnet.edu.au)