Media Alert

32 exabytes of data traffic at DE-CIX Internet Exchanges worldwide

32 EB (Exabyte) = 8 million years of continuous video call

Frankfurt am Main, 10 February 2021. DE-CIX, the operator of the world's largest Internet Exchange in terms of data throughput, based in Frankfurt am Main, has determined for the first time the total volume of data that passed through its worldwide Internet Exchanges[1] within one year. A total of 32 exabytes of data traffic flowed through the DE-CIX Internet Exchanges in 2020 – roughly the same amount of data required for an eight-million-year-long video call.

"We knew from the beginning that the Internet would withstand the extraordinary year of 2020 and the Corona pandemic, but to see such an enormously high figure now in black and white is quite something, and makes us very proud. At our Internet Exchanges, we have observed how data traffic has increased in the past year, especially in the areas of working from home (for example, video calls and VPN connections) and entertainment (for example, streaming and online gaming). Digital services and applications are more essential than ever, and must function with as little delay as possible," said Dr. Thomas King, Chief Technology Officer at DE-CIX.

Record peaks at DE-CIX Frankfurt in 2020

Data traffic at DE-CIX in Frankfurt reached record peak levels twice last year: In March 2020 – during the first lockdown – a world record of 9 terabits per second (Tbps) of data throughput was reached. This was followed in November – during the German "lockdown light" – by another record, reaching 10 Tbps data throughput at peak times for the first time.

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[1] DE-CIX locations that are fully owned and operated by DE-CIX – excluding partner locations

Some background information: How big is 32 exabytes?

- The transmission speed of data is specified in Terabits per second (Tbps).

- 1 Terabit per second is 10^3 Gbit/s, 10^6 Mbit/s, 10^9 Kbit/s or 10^{12} bit/s, i.e. 1,000,000,000,000 bit/s.

- 8 Terabits = 1 Terabyte (TB); 1,000,000 TB = 1 Exabyte (EB)

- 32 EB is the amount of data that would need to be transported to have a video call lasting nearly 8 million years.

- 32 EB is the storage capacity of more than 250 million smartphones (each with 128 GB of storage).

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About DE-CIX

DE-CIX (German Commercial Internet Exchange) is the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges. In total, in its 28 locations in Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Asia, DE-CIX interconnects over 2100 network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers, and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, offering peering, cloud, and interconnection services. The combined connected customer capacity of all DE-CIX locations worldwide exceeds 70 Terabits, making it the largest neutral interconnection ecosystem in the world. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, with a data throughput of more than 10 Terabits per second (Tbps) and over 1000 connected networks, is the largest Internet Exchange in the world.
Further information at www.de-cix.net

Media contact DE-CIX:
Joanna Hahn and Carsten Titt – Global Public Relations
Tel.: +49 (0)69-1730902-130
Email: media@de-cix.net