

An Internet Exchange for the North

**Unite Infrastructure.
Ignite Local Economies.**

An important element of global Internet traffic is called 'peering', which is usually the settlement-free exchange of traffic between individual service and content providers. LINX was established to facilitate peering, and has done so very successfully. A key element of this is our mutuality - LINX is owned by the entities that it serves.

LINX originally grew and prospered in London, where we have a very extensive network, spanning many different data centres. LINX's backbone network in London means that our members have a choice as to where they connect. We realised, however, that this success in London was perhaps inhibiting the establishment of peering points in the rest of the UK, so with the active support of our members, we put in place a UK regional peering strategy to address this.

Benefits of Peering and using an Internet Exchange

- Improved performance
- Low latency
- Greater resilience
- Control of traffic routing

LINX Manchester: Growing and Thriving

Launched in 2012, LINX Manchester is now located at four sites in the city. Two sites are based at Equinix in Williams House and Joule House, the third at the M247 data centre with TeleData coming on board in early 2020. The exchange has over 140 member ASNs connected and traffic regularly exceeds 100Gb/s, making LINX Manchester one of the busier exchanges in Europe.



Supporting the LINX regional peering strategy

To support the LINX regional peering strategy members are able to connect to a 1GE port at any of LINX's six LANs purely for the price of the membership fee

This reduction in costs now gives members:

- Added incentive to peer at all our local exchanges:
- More peering at local exchanges makes the Internet faster and more reliable for end users
- Better connectivity for businesses which stimulates the local economy
- Lower cost of entry for SMEs.

There is a good mix of content providers and access networks present at the exchange including Akamai, BBC, Janet and Virgin Media, as well as local companies such as Gamma Telecom and Metronet.

Resilience is a major feature for Manchester and this is reflected in our topology and our two route servers. Router servers are of particular interest to new members as it gives immediate access to potential peers allowing members to realise the benefits of peering apparent very quickly.

Our availability metrics for LINX Manchester, achieves greater than the coveted 99.999 % reliability.

Colocation facilities are also available in M247 which again eases connectivity to the exchange, as LINX are able to offer small amounts of space to members, without the need for setting up multiple supplier relationships.

LINX Manchester Peering Platform

LINX Manchester is located in three locations; M247 Data Centre and Equinix's Joule and William's House. A multi-site deployment gives members choice of colocation provider and carrier. It also enables LINX to improve redundancy and increase resilience of the exchange. LINX Manchester is not connected back to the LINX exchange in London as our mission is to keep traffic local.

LINX's mutual approach to enhancing connectivity of the local digital infrastructure, based on an industry led approach.

Technical specification

- Extreme X670 and BDX8 switches
- Management router
- Route Server
- Route Collector
- Monitoring Server
- IPv4 Peering LAN
- IPv6 Peering LAN

Services available at LINX and LINX Manchester

- 1G, 10G and 100G peering ports
- ConneXions partnership scheme
- 24/7 support services
- Private peering
- Infrastructure support
- Route server for multilateral peering
- Rack space rental
- Colocation services
- Traffic statistics

Who would benefit from using the Exchange

- Internet service providers
- Content delivery networks
- Hosting companies
- Network service providers
- Data rich transactional enterprises

Why Should I Join LINX Manchester?

LINX Manchester was set up to help enhance the UK's Internet infrastructure with the aim of keeping traffic local. By joining LINX and connecting at LINX Manchester, you can deliver your customers a better and faster experience. You also get to attend LINX member conferences and events for free.

The LINX membership also brings with it the benefit of up to 1G of capacity free at LINX Manchester as well as a 1G at no charge at the other LINX regional exchanges in Scotland, Cardiff and both LINX London exchanges too. Put simply, LINX membership gives your business competitive advantage over a network that isn't connected.

"Manchester has a long track record of developing mutual approaches to supporting the digital economy. The LINX commitment to the mutual principle with the creation of LINX Manchester is at the core of this."

Dave Carter
Manchester Digital Development Agency

About LINX

The London Internet Exchange (LINX) was founded in 1994 to facilitate the exchange of traffic between Internet service providers.

LINX is a not for profit Internet exchange. Before LINX was founded, most of the traffic between UK service providers was exchanged in the USA, which is both inefficient and a costly way of doing it. LINX's mission was therefore to keep traffic local - and it did this originally in London, as one of the world's first not-for-profit Internet exchanges. Keeping traffic local has been responsible for many of the improvements in Internet services that we have all come to rely on. This has contributed to the general improvement in the Internet services that we, as end users, are familiar with. Our mission was, and is, to work for the good of the Internet and to 'keep traffic local'.

Today, LINX includes networks in the north-west of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Virginia in the USA.

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