I am a graduate student and have been using GENI for experimentation, teaching and research for over two years. Please find below my comments for the future plan for the NSF GENI Initiative.

•   What GENI capabilities are most important?

The GENI Support community has been extremely useful to me. Being able to observe similar and different research activities at the various community meetings and workshops helped me to sustain my own work using GENI resources. In addition, online discussion groups are a great place for learning about GENI features and networking research ideas in general.

Having access to various resources in GENI gives researchers a platform to innovate network architectures, especially in layer 3 which is almost never possible with other remote testbeds.

•   What activities should GENI continue, expand, or wind down?

I strongly feel that focus should be given to achieve stability in GENI Testbed resources to enable long running experiments and to building tools that simplify the learning curve for new researchers in terms of package installation, custom experiments and so on. GENI should continue to evolve with future internet architectures such as Software Defined Networking, Named Data Networking, Mobility First, etc. and make it easy to customize experiments that are most popular.

On the education side, it is great to have remote access to testbed resources for students who can continue to enjoy hands-on implementation of networking concepts through virtual labs. In my experience, students have benefited more by running labs on GENI than by classroom learning or simulations.

It would also be nice to see GENI reach out to more researchers in the industry to provide a more holistic aspect to the GENI community research. Organizing coding challenges/hackathons where academic researchers attempt to solve real problems in the industry using GENI testbeds could lead to interesting research and collaborative work.

- How should GENI be governed and sustained?

GENI is a community driven project to a large extent and this should continue. However, it is also important to have a governing team to manage and support researchers and also bridge the gap between feature developers (test bed administrators, UI design etc.) and experimenters.

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