The OARnet backbone is a fully meshed ATM design and standard DS-3 circuits connecting Cisco routers and carrier-class switches. The backbone includes 19 POPs (Points of Presence) throughout the Midwest, which helps keep an extensive list of redundant and shortest path routing, as well as network operations. The backbone is designed to be highly available and scalable to support the growing needs of its members.

OARnet is a leader in providing distance learning and teaching management systems to OARnet members, and is currently providing distance learning solutions to customers. OARnet is also coordinating workshops and support conferences. OARnet has been in business since 1967, and currently serves more than 90 academic institutions and universities in the world. OARnet is now one of the leading regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the world.