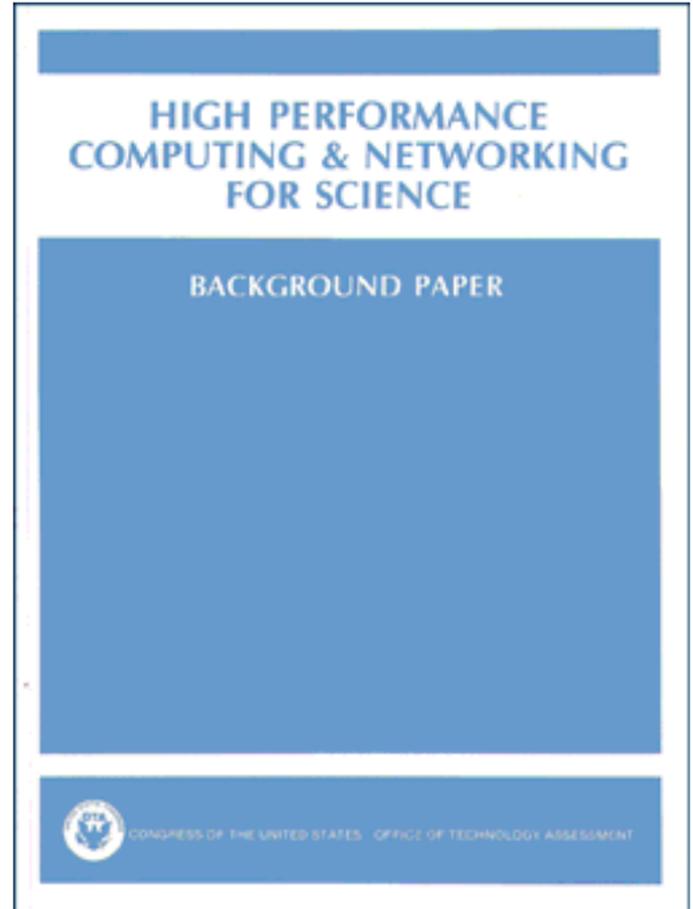


*High-Performance Computing and
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Foreword

Information technology is fundamental to today's research and development: high performance computers for solving complex problems; high-speed data communication networks for exchanging scientific and engineering information; very large electronic archives for storing scientific and technical data; and new display technologies for visualizing the results of analyses.

This background paper explores key issues concerning the Federal role in supporting national high performance computing facilities and in developing a national research and education network. It is the first publication from our assessment, *Information Technology and Research*, which was requested by the House Committee on Science and Technology and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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