


**Social and Public Safety
Policies for IP-Enabled
Communications**


Christopher Libertelli
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

Seminar on Next Generation Networks and Telecommunication Regulations
Nanjing, China August 2004




**The Migration to Next
Generation Regulatory Policy**

- In terms of network control, the old world of circuit-switched telephone networks centralized “intelligence” within the network
- Next generation networks tend to house intelligence at the fringes of the network
 - computers for broadband communication and cognitive radios for better spectrum use
- This end-to-end nature of next generation networks has helped the Internet proliferate



**Regulate Only
For Core Values**

- The FCC should apply discrete regulatory requirements only where necessary to fulfill important federal policy objectives
- Continue promotion of ongoing social policy objectives
 - Individual U.S. states are important for such consumer protection measures



**The Migration to Next
Generation Regulatory Policy**

- The Chairman of the FCC has outlined four Net Freedoms that should be preserved to maintain the valuable end-to-end nature of next generation network:
 - **Freedom to Access any Content**
 - **Freedom to Use any Applications**
 - **Freedom to Attach any Personal Devices to the Network**
 - **Freedom to Understand Billing Information and Service Contracts**

FCC FCC's IP-Enabled Services Proceeding

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released on March 10, 2004
- Proceeding to question the regulation of IP-enabled services
- Policy Concerns – universal service, law enforcement access, emergency 911, and access to people with disabilities

FCC Universal Service

- FCC's goal is to foster a system of universal service that is fair to all competitors in an increasingly competitive marketplace
- IP communications represent a real opportunity to advance our universal service objectives, including ubiquity and affordability
- New technology can reduce the costs of providing supported services, particularly in the higher-cost areas of our country
- The introduction of technologically advanced, lower-cost networks also can have a positive effect on the high-cost fund over time, thereby limiting the burden our policies place on consumers

FCC The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act

- The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) was enacted in response to rapid advances in telecommunications technology that threaten the ability of law enforcement officials to conduct electronic surveillance
- The FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking responding to a petition from US law enforcement agencies seeking to further update wire tap laws for IP-Enabled communications

FCC Emergency Call Services

- The FCC is currently working through the technical feasibility of E911 calling services on cellular telephone networks
- The FCC established the Wireless E911 Coordination Initiative to bring together stakeholders to share experiences and devise strategies for expediting wireless E911 deployment



Emergency Call Services

- In the IP-Enabled Services NPRM, the Commission sought comment on the feasibility of similar services over IP-Enabled services
- E911 Internet Policy Working Group Solution Summit: March 18, 2004
- The Commission hopes that industry consensus with respect to 911 implementation over IP-Enabled networks proceeds similar to how it has in the cellular industry



Access to People with Disabilities

- Technology has consistently permitted Americans with disabilities to become more integrated and productive in their daily lives
- FCC will not allow Internet-based services to fall short of this precedent
- Confident that the industry will respond appropriately to ensure access by individuals with disabilities



Thank You!

- For more information
 - FCC Internet site: www.fcc.gov
 - FCC VoIP Internet site: www.fcc.gov/voip
 - E-mail: christopher.libertelli@fcc.gov

