ITU-T Workshop
"Opportunities and Challenges in Home Networking"

Abstract

Speaker:	Walter P. von Pattay
	Secretary of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25
Session:	**1: Worldwide Status of Home Networking**
Title of Presentation:	**Standards for the networked home challenge ISO/IEC & ITU**

The presentation postulates that the development of the home networking market is subject to network externalities: applications taking the role that subscribers have in traditional telecommunications services. The growth laws of such markets are explained and examples of success and failure in the past are given.

It is concluded that planning confidence is vital for the development of this market. Different ways to achieve planning confidence for users and suppliers are outlined, choosing one of them for home networking:

development of a coherent set of standards that covers a wide range of applications within a systems architecture that reaches from CCCB (commands, controls and communications in buildings) via ICT (information and communications technologies) to BCT (broadcast communications technologies).

The large number of specifications offered in this area by national and regional standardization committees and consortia proof the high importance of the area, while at the same time their engagement is counterproductive as they confuse the market with often competing and incompatible specifications.

Presently standardization bodies on international level have the choice

- to specify subsystems that would be part of an overall home networking architecture and thus support each other's specifications and markets by providing planning confidence for all applications that may be used in a networked home, or

- to expand their specifications beyond their original scope regardless of the standards developed by other industries on who's turf they go, very likely confusing the market and delaying also the development of their own share of the market.

It is the choice between a) each industry making its own (little) biscuit hoping to grow it over time and b) all industries preparing a (big) cake in co-operation that is shared. For most players one could expect the piece from the cake to be bigger than the biscuit.

The most important bodies that would need to be involved in the decision and possible co-operation are listed.

The presentation concludes with inviting these bodies to supports a coherent systems architecture for home networking that crosses the borders of IEC, ISO, and ITU.

Finally the development of a bibliography of standards available and being developed in the area of home networking is announced.