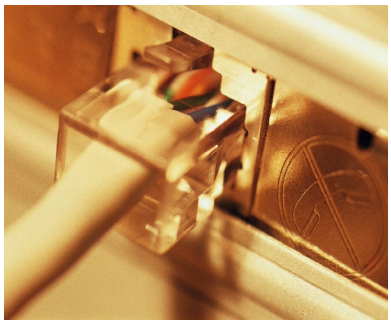
NEW YORK STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
CIO OFT
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY

January 2011 Volume 3, Issue 1

NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

Issue 1, January 2011



Report from the Field: Advancing Public Safety Broadband Communications

by Lance Johnson, NTIA Program Officer (December 30, 2010)

700-MHz Demonstration Stakeholder Meeting in Boulder

In December, representatives from each of the seven BTOP 700 MHz wireless broadband public safety projects spent time at the Department of Commerce Research Labs in Boulder learning about the most recent developments in LTE wireless broadband technology.

Approximately 300 stakeholders, who were interested in the new wireless broadband technology and how this commercial technology could be adapted by public safety using the 700 MHz broadband spectrum, attended the meeting. Attendees included representatives from state, local, and federal government agencies, equipment manufacturers, cellular service providers, and other stakeholder associations. It was one of the largest events ever held at the Boulder campus and included opening remarks by Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Greg Schaffer and NTIA Deputy Administrator Anna Gomez.

This event was sponsored by the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) program, a government-sponsored program that performs research to advance public safety communications interoperability. PSCR is a joint effort between the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Office of Law Enforcement Standards and NTIA's Institute for Telecommunication Sciences. The PSCR program is building a 700-MHz Public Safety Broadband Demonstration Network to provide manufacturers and first responders a location for early deployment of their public safety systems in a multi-vendor, neutral, host environment.

At the meeting, attendees received information about PSCR's demonstration network and were able to see the equipment in operation as part of a lab tour. All seven of the BTOP grant recipients participated in discussions about network standards, potential interoperability, and equipment development and testing. The meeting was designed to advance the goal of a nationwide interoperable public safety wireless broadband network – and was an important opportunity for our public safety grantees to learn more about this technology as they prepare to deploy their own public safety networks.

Brian Shepherd, the Deputy Director of the Adams County Communications Center (ADCOM), a recipient of one of the BTOP public safety grants, captured the importance of this meeting to public safety broadband goals when he stated:

> "The Winter 2010 Demonstration Network/ Stakeholder Meeting was an excellent opportunity for our entire team to both learn from and network with everyone who will be involved in the development of the 700 MHz Broadband Network. The relationships developed and information exchanged between the waiver recipients will be invaluable as we move forward with our project. These types of meetings and the continued coordination by the PSCR will be crucial in meeting the overall broadband goals."

NTIA, BTOP grant recipients, and PSCR will continue to work with each other and the FCC to deploy these pilot projects and to move closer to providing the nation's first responders with a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband communications network.

Fast Fact:
More people continue to cite the internet than newspapers as their main source of news, reflecting both the growth of the internet, and the gradual decline in newspaper readership.

"Internet Gains on Television as Public's Main News Source"
The Pew Research Center for the People and The Press
January 4, 2011

RESOURCES:

U.S. Economic Recovery
www.recovery.gov

www.BroadbandUSA.gov

NYSBroadband.ny.gov

NYS Broadband Development and Deployment Council
www.cio.ny.gov/OFT/UniversalBroadband/overview.htm

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
www.fcc.gov
Broadband.gov

National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)
www.ntia.doc.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
www.usda.gov

Home Wireless Safety Checklist

The following six steps are recommended by the FCC for owners of wireless networks in order to provide protection from hackers and malicious programs such as viruses and spyware. Consult the owner's manual that came with your wireless router or the manufacturer's website for specific instructions on performing the following steps. More information on this and other online safety topics is available at: www.fcc.gov/consumers.

1. Turn On Encryption
WPA2 is currently the strongest home encryption available. Because it is less secure, WEP is not recommended.

2. Turn On the Router's Firewall
Wireless routers are sometimes shipped with the firewall turned off. Ensure that yours is turned on.

3. Change the Router's Preset Password
To be most secure, your password should include letters, numbers and/or symbols and should be at least 12 characters long.

4. Customize the Network's Name ("SSID")
You should give your network a unique name; however, you should not use personal information, such as family members' names.

5. Turn Off Network Identifier Broadcasting
Broadcasting the network's name ("SSID") is unnecessary with a home network and may invite attempts at unauthorized access.

6. Set Up a MAC Address Filter
This allows you to pre-approve the devices that can access your network.

The OnGuard Online website, www.onguardonline.gov, has video tutorials on adjusting the security settings of wireless routers from several manufacturers. For more information and online safety tips, please visit www.fcc.gov/consumers.

Broadband and Social Justice Summit 2011

The Minority and Media Telecom Council is holding a **Broadband and Social Justice Summit** at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C. on January 20 and 21. The Summit will highlight three of the greatest priorities in broadband policy today: achieving universal broadband access, adoption and informed use, meeting the nation's spectrum needs, and using broadband for civic engagement and social justice. Senior policymakers from the White House, Congress, the FCC and industry will engage with civil rights leaders on the direction the nation must take to achieve digital equality and justice online.

Below is current schedule for the Summit.

To learn more about the Summit and download a registration form, visit http://mmtconline.org/.

Thursday, January 20, 2011	
11:00 AM	Registration Opens
Noon-1:50 PM	Congressional Luncheon
2:00-2:30 PM	Implementing the National Broadband Plan
2:00-3:00 PM	The Obama Administration's Broadband Policy Priorities
3:10-4:30 PM	Universal Broadband Adoption: A Civil Rights Imperative
4:30-5:30 PM	The Roadmap to Universal Access, Adoption And Affordability
5:30-8:30 PM	Social Justice Reception – Sponsored By Politic365
Friday, January 21, 2011	
7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:00-9:20 AM	Commissioners' Breakfast: The FCC's Broadband Policy Priorities
9:30-10:20 AM	The National Broadband Plan: What Must Be Done To Complete The Transition To The Digital Age?
10:20-10:50 AM	The Wireless Future: Jobs and Economic Empowerment
10:50-11:40 AM	Civic Engagement And Social Justice In The Wake Of The 2010 Election
11:40-12:20 AM	Broadband Innovation: An Engine Of Social Justice
12:30-2:00 PM	High Tech Policy Luncheon: The Policies That Will Deliver America 100% Broadband Access, Adoption and Affordability
3:00-5:30 PM	WORKSHOP: Blogging for Social Justice: How To Use Social Media To Transform Society (Cannon House Office Building)

CIO/OFT Broadband Program Office
New York State CIO/OFT • Albany, NY 12220
(866) 322-5787 • broadbandstimulus@cio.ny.gov

NEW YORK STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
CIO OFT
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY