

# Scope of Universal Service

Ken Hammer (*ken.hammer@ConnRiver.net*)

Sat, 07 Sep 96 20:27:54 -0500

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date ] [ thread ] [ subject ] [ author ]
  - **Next message:** Jim Callahan: "Paradigm Shifts"
  - **Previous message:** Gordon Cook: "Re: Rural and School Internet Access"
- 

Comment on the following 2 paragraphs of the Week 2 Scope:

"There is a second issue which might make one want to narrow the scope of Universal Service subsidies. This is the question of who puts into the Universal Service Fund, and who takes out of it. Traditionally, the Universal Service Fund has been circular, with the same companies putting into the fund, typically in proportion to the number of urban customers they serve, and taking out of the fund, typically in proportion to the number of rural customers they serve."

"If one were to extend coverage of the Universal Service subsidies for schools and libraries to areas beyond the typical reach of traditional telecommunications suppliers, it opens up a whole new set of concerns about fairness. If, for example, the fund were to cover the purchase of computers, should computer vendors be required to make payments into the fund? You will find much discussion of this issue in the Comments presented to the FCC. Typically, those businesses which have not previously had to pay into the fund are arguing against having new regulatory requirements imposed upon them through this sort of arrangement."

Comment: The presumption throughout is that "companies" and "businesses" pay the subsidy. If the flow of funds is "circular", it is a long loop running from one set of consumers to another with some overlap. Companies and businesses in the loop are only tax collectors; collecting at the behest of government from one set of consumers in prices and distributing to others in subsidies. Once this hidden tax becomes too large, citizens rebel. The national examples of medicine and education reveal the consequences. On a more human scale, Vermont provides some concrete examples. Tiny in population, it is often compelled to perform with bravado as "first/best" in the nation.

Vermont continues to try and "manage" the health care system. In our small town, if government paid the full cost of all the health benefits it has "given" to various ones of us, the hospital bill for all the rest would be 35% lower than the current charge. So we all rebel against the health system when it was the government which promoted promiscuous excess in use and in practice.

In the more direct interest of this seminar, education was championed by Vermont state government from the '60's through most of the '80's. Vocational education, special education and "state standards" were implemented. Higher teaching salaries were encouraged. The State promised subsidies which actually grew to 60% of our town's total education costs by 1991 (while costs were locally controlled 20% below

# Paradigm Shifts

Jim Callahan ([jcalhan@sundial.sundial.net](mailto:jcalhan@sundial.sundial.net))

Sun, 08 Sep 1996 00:28:39 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date ] [ thread ] [ subject ] [ author ]
  - **Next message:** Gerry Hamor: "Thoughts about US"
  - **Previous message:** Ken Hammer: "Scope of Universal Service"
- 

WOW! In a classic understatement...

Marty Tennant wrote:

>

> I got this off an interesting USENET group and thought the group  
> might like it.

. . .

>> i.e. the combination of no-licence, high performance, reasonable range  
>> the last 20 miles), digital wireless, with school networking needs,  
>> (and school districts are where people in this country live, rural or  
>> urban) contains within it the seeds of 'community' networking, . . .

>> And since the FCC is confronted with the requirement of the '96  
>> Telecom Act to make proposal/plans for insuring that advanced telecom  
>> services are available to all citizens at affordable costs, with  
>> special emphasis on schools (84,000 of em) and libraries (15,000) this  
>> approach that we are revealing from our analysis (we are also visiting  
>> communities which have already done it wirelessly, and evaluating  
>> their cost benefit factors, technical reliability, and other factors  
>> for our report.)

>>

>> You can follow what we are doing, examining, by accessing  
>> <http://wireless.oldcolo.com>

>

> Dave Hughes [dave@oldcolo.com](mailto:dave@oldcolo.com)

The

<http://wireless.oldcolo.com>

site has the results of some National Science Foundation (NSF) funded research by some "Star Wars" (read their bios) researchers on using low-power radio as a very high throughput medium over short distances (ie. for our purposes, within a classroom, campus or district).

I highly recomend the articles linked at the bottom of the home page.

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These authors push the argument to its most radical liberterian extremes (no license, no auction spectrum allocation). My personal viewpoint is that these authors at at the leading edge of a cascading series of paradigm shifts (most of which are represented in the FCC filings we have been reading).

I found it very hard to summarize an individual FCC filing because, I keep trying to fit each filing into an overall pattern of filings

# Link to article by Peter Huber

Marty Tennant (*marty@sccoast.net*)  
Sun, 08 Sep 1996 20:07:48 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - Previous message: Gerry Hamor: "Thoughts about US"
- 

At

<http://www.teledot.com.com/0996/features/tdc0996huber.html>

you will find an interesting article with Peter Huber.

Keep reading and you will find some references to the Universal Service issues we are discussing.

Marty Tennant

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- Previous message: Gerry Hamor: "Thoughts about US"

extremely helpful. We, as educators and librarians, need to learn to use the internet and to pass that knowledge to our students and patrons.

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- **Next message: Marty Tennant: "Link to article by Peter Huber"**
- **Previous message: Jim Callahan: "Paradigm Shifts"**

# Thoughts about US

Gerry Hamor ([ghamor@mail.vcnet.com](mailto:ghamor@mail.vcnet.com))  
Sun, 8 Sep 1996 17:40:51 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - Next message: Marty Tennant: "Link to article by Peter Huber"
  - Previous message: Jim Callahan: "Paradigm Shifts"
- 

Greetings to all seminar participants; posters and readers alike.

Since this is my first post, I want to thank Bob Carlitz the folks at Information Renaissance for providing this opportunity.

The quantity of reading material required for intelligent posting is staggering, especially for participants with limited experience in telecommunications. As a member of that group, I am learning a lot and am impressed by the thoughts of those with experience in the field.

I am a site principal (<http://www.vcnet.com/doscaminos>), involved with, but not directly responsible for, the expansion of telecommunications in our district. We have wonderful cooperation from our local ISP and we have a good working relationship with our local telco. We have established a district WAN and are in the process of developing LANS at the site level.

>From this perspective, I see the need to define Uniiversal Service as issues of Connectivity and Support as we begin to use the resource.

Yesterday I thought we needed wires (ISDN, T1) at the level necessary to carry out efficient communication. Today, after reading the posts by Dave Hughes and Jim Callahan and reading the cover story in the current issue of Byte (<http://www.byte.com>) that describes the potential of cable TV to provide internet access, I am not quite as sure. In the short run, the local telco can at least bring access to the sites and provide consultation on the development of in-house networking for those institutions ready to expand.

Since we have yet to begin high-volume usage, I have no idea what the cost of the additional service will be. It needs to be minimal in order for schools to direct our scant resources toward additional technology and networking at the sites.

As I understand the current concept of the Universal Service Fund, telcos contribute from rates charged to one set of subscribers and then are credited for the cost of providing service to another set. If schools and libraries succeed in developing a very broad definition of universal service, basic rates will probably increase and the "discount" provided via the universal service concept could be negligible. Granted, we would get some additional service up front, but I share concerns expressed for the folks on whom the burden will fall. As I write this, I have no idea what the REAL COST of x students accessing the internet on a daily basis is to the telcos. Can any participants answer this question?

I consider training to be very important, but IMHO, beyond the scope of mandatory universal service. Our local telco, under no mandate that I'm aware of, provides periodic offerings from "GTE University" which are

## US/ND-3 by date

- **Most recent messages**
- **Messages sorted by: [ thread | subject | author ]**
- **Other mail archives**

**Starting:** *Mon 09 Sep 1996 - 11:39:56 EDT*

**Ending:** *Sun 15 Sep 1996 - 17:17:32 EDT*

**Messages:** 63

- **Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar** *Bob Carlitz*
- **SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video** *WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu*
- **radio-WAN** *Rex Buddenberg*
- **Re: Scope of Universal Service** *Rex Buddenberg*
- **Bona Fide Request Process** *Marty Tennant*
- **Re: Schools reselling????** *St. Francis School*
- **Re: second week thoughts** *St. Francis School*
- **Re: Universal Service** *St. Francis School*
- **Re: Link to article by Peter Huber** *Bob Carlitz*
- **Residential subsidy? -Was:The FCC's and State Commission's** *Jack McFadden*
- **Re: Bona Fide Request Process** *Betty Dawn Hamilton*
- **Re: Residential subsidy? -Was:The FCC's and State Commission's Role** *Betty Dawn Hamilton*
- **This weeks discussion** *Jan Bolluyt*
- **[Fwd: BELLSOUTH TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS]** *Marty Tennant*
- **This Week's Questions** *Preuss, Paul*
- **(Fwd) Cooperation among Schools/Libraries** *Preuss, Paul*
- **Re: This weeks discussion** *Link Shadley*
- **Please complete the on-line survey on the SCOPE of Universal Service** *Bob Carlitz*
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- **Re: [Fwd: BELLSOUTH TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS]** *Diane Midness*
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- **another view** *calvin branche*
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- **Wireless verses ?** *Jan Bolluyt*
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- **Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar** *Margaret Honey*
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- **Wireless and Infrastructure Obsolescence** *Marty Tennant*
- **Re: voice e-mail for the homeless** *Emilio Gonzalez*
- **Bell South** *Ken Hammer*
- **Re: Free Email** *Travis Thompson*

- **Content - text vs gui** Ken Hammer
- **Free Email** Marty Tennant
- **Re: Content - text vs gui** Betty Dawn Hamilton
- **Re: Free Email** Betty Dawn Hamilton
- **Voice Mail for the Homeless!** Steve Kohn
- **Re: Free Email** Travis Thompson
- **Re: voice e-mail for the homeless** Link Shadley
- **info-ren server will be down Saturday morning** Bob Carlitz
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- **Re: Free Email** Marty Tennant
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- **Discounts to providers?** Ken Hammer
- **State approved technology plans?** Ken Hammer
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- **Re: Checking in re us-nd** Jerry Snyder
- **RE: State Approved Technology Plans** Jim Wiljanen
- **Definitions: Functions or Specific Services?** Jim Wiljanen
- **Re: Free Email - NOT!** Betty Dawn Hamilton
- **Re: us-nd-digest V3 #3** Kevin & Pam Kurtz
- **RE: State Approved Technology Plans** Betty Dawn Hamilton
- **Internet content?** Sandy Brooks
- **Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar** Tom Hibbs
- **E-rate/Greatest Benefits** Frank Odasz
- **SCANS and Universal Service** EricElert@aol.com
- **Internet Survey Results** Bill Cosh
- **Re: SCANS and Universal Service** Betty Dawn Hamilton
- **Reality Check** Frank Odasz
- **Third week questions** Gerry Hamor
- **State Technology Plans** Bill Cosh

Last message date: Sun 15 Sep 1996 - 17:17:32 EDT

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- Messages sorted by: [ [thread](#) || [subject](#) || [author](#) ]
- **Other mail archives**

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# US/ND-3 by thread

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  - **Re: This weeks discussion** *Link Shadley*
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## US/ND-3 by author

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date | thread | subject ]
- **Other mail archives**

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- **Betty Dawn Hamilton**
  - Re: SCANS and Universal Service *Sun, 15 Sep 1996 06:54:41 -0500 (CDT)*
  - RE: State Approved Technology Plans *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 20:10:33 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Re: Free Email - NOT! *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 19:45:46 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Re: Free Email *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 18:36:02 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Re: Content - text vs gui *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 18:25:53 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Re: Residential subsidy? -Was: The FCC's and State Commission's Role *Mon, 9 Sep 1996 19:43:23 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Re: Bona Fide Request Process *Mon, 9 Sep 1996 19:30:36 -0500 (CDT)*
- **Bill Cosh**
  - State Technology Plans *Sat, 14 Sep 1996 16:14:02 -0700*
  - Internet Survey Results *Sat, 14 Sep 1996 23:22:41 -0700*
- **Bob Carlitz**
  - info-ren server will be down Saturday morning *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 11:46:23 -0400 (EDT)*
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  - Re: Link to article by Peter Huber *Mon, 9 Sep 1996 15:26:57 -0400 (EDT)*
  - Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar *Mon, 9 Sep 1996 11:38:22 -0400 (EDT)*
- **calvin branche**
  - another view *Wed, 11 Sep 1996 11:31:58 -0400*
- **Diane Midness**
  - Re: [Fwd: BELLSOUTH TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS] *Tue, 10 Sep 1996 20:53:43 +0200*
  - Re: [Fwd: BELLSOUTH TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS] *Tue, 10 Sep 1996 20:53:43 +0200*
- **Emilio Gonzalez**
  - Re: voice e-mail for the homeless *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 11:19:20 -0400*
- **EricElert@aol.com**
  - SCANS and Universal Service *Sat, 14 Sep 1996 22:04:44 -0400*
- **Ferdi Serim**
  - Re: Content - text vs gui *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 08:42:28 -0400 (EDT)*
- **Frank Odasz**
  - Reality Check *Sun, 15 Sep 96 11:50:28 MDT*
  - E-rate/Greatest Benefits *Sat, 14 Sep 96 11:03:19 MDT*
- **Gene Hastings**
  - Re: New Wireless Technologies *Wed, 11 Sep 1996 13:17:29 -0400 (EDT)*
- **Gerry Hamor**

- Third week questions Sun, 15 Sep 1996 12:10:13 -0700
- **Jack McFadden**
  - New Wireless Technologies -Reply Wed, 11 Sep 1996 09:59:28 -0500
  - Residential subsidy? -Was:The FCC's and State Commission's Mon, 09 Sep 1996 12:32:13 -0500
- **Jan Bolluyt**
  - Wireless verses ? Thu, 12 Sep 1996 00:03:37 -0500
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- **Jerry Snyder**
  - Re: Checking in re us-nd Fri, 13 Sep 1996 09:54:44 -0400
- **Jim Wiljanen**
  - Definitions: Functions or Specific Services? Fri, 13 Sep 1996 18:17:08 -0400
  - RE: State Approved Technology Plans Fri, 13 Sep 1996 17:55:54 -0400
- **Karen Coyle**
  - Re: Residential subsidy? Wed, 11 Sep 96 16:28:54 pdt
- **Ken Hammer**
  - Discounts for schools and libraries? Fri, 13 Sep 96 09:46:27 -0500
  - State approved technology plans? Fri, 13 Sep 96 09:43:45 -0500
  - Discounts to providers? Fri, 13 Sep 96 09:38:15 -0500
  - Cash grants or vouchers? Fri, 13 Sep 96 09:35:49 -0500
  - Content - text vs gui Thu, 12 Sep 96 12:08:15 -0500
  - Bell South Thu, 12 Sep 96 12:22:13 -0500
- **Kevin & Pam Kurtz**
  - Re: us-nd-digest V3 #3 Tue, 1 Oct 1996 18:22:16 -0700
- **Link Shadley**
  - Re: voice e-mail for the homeless Thu, 12 Sep 1996 21:27:07 +0000
  - Re: This weeks discussion Tue, 10 Sep 1996 07:53:30 +0000
- **Margaret Honey**
  - Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar Thu, 12 Sep 1996 06:25:32 -0400
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  - Re: Free Email Fri, 13 Sep 1996 08:53:46 -0700
  - Free Email Thu, 12 Sep 1996 11:35:04 -0700
  - Wireless and Infrastructure Obsolescence Thu, 12 Sep 1996 11:29:53 -0700
  - New Wireless Technologies Wed, 11 Sep 1996 06:10:05 -0700
  - [Fwd: BELLSOUTH TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS] Mon, 09 Sep 1996 21:27:34 -0700
  - Bona Fide Request Process Mon, 09 Sep 1996 13:40:25 -0700
- **Preuss, Paul**
  - (Fwd) Cooperation among Schools/Libraries Tue, 10 Sep 1996 08:29:54 +5 EST
  - This Week's Questions Tue, 10 Sep 1996 08:13:48 +5 EST
- **Rex Buddenberg**
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- **Tom Hibbs**
  - Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 22:40:06 -0600 (MDT)*
- **Travis Thompson**
  - Re: Free Email *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 12:59:03 EDT*
  - Re: Free Email *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 23:12:14 EDT*
  - Re: Free Email *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 14:24:03 EDT*
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## US/ND-3 by subject

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  - St. Francis School *Mon, 09 Sep 1996 13:54:00 -0700*
- **Scope of Universal Service**
  - Rex Buddenberg *Mon, 09 Sep 96 09:48:36 -0700*
- **SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video**
  - WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu *Mon, 09 Sep 1996 09:08:43 -0500 (EST)*
- **second week thoughts**
  - St. Francis School *Mon, 09 Sep 1996 13:59:25 -0700*
- **State Approved Technology Plans**
  - Betty Dawn Hamilton *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 20:10:33 -0500 (CDT)*
  - Jim Wiljanen *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 17:55:54 -0400*
- **State approved technology plans?**
  - Ken Hammer *Fri, 13 Sep 96 09:43:45 -0500*
- **State Technology Plans**
  - Bill Cosh *Sat, 14 Sep 1996 16:14:02 -0700*
- **Third week questions**
  - Gerry Hamor *Sun, 15 Sep 1996 12:10:13 -0700*
- **This Week's Questions**
  - Preuss, Paul *Tue, 10 Sep 1996 08:13:48 +5 EST*
- **This weeks discussion**
  - Link Shadley *Tue, 10 Sep 1996 07:53:30 +0000*
  - Jan Bolluyt *Mon, 09 Sep 1996 20:35:20 -0500*

- **Universal Service**
  - St. Francis School *Mon, 09 Sep 1996 15:22:13 -0700*
- **us-nd-digest V3 #2**
  - Travis Thompson *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 00:48:36 EDT*
- **us-nd-digest V3 #3**
  - Kevin & Pam Kurtz *Tue, 1 Oct 1996 18:22:16 -0700*
- **voice e-mail for the homeless**
  - Link Shadley *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 21:27:07 +0000*
  - Emilio Gonzalez *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 11:19:20 -0400*
  - Sylvia Nespoli *12 Sep 1996 08:08:11 -0400*
- **Voice Mail for the Homeless!**
  - Steve Kohn *12 Sep 1996 20:25:20 GMT*
- **Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar**
  - Tom Hibbs *Fri, 13 Sep 1996 22:40:06 -0600 (MDT)*
  - Margaret Honey *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 06:25:32 -0400*
  - Bob Carlitz *Mon, 9 Sep 1996 11:38:22 -0400 (EDT)*
- **Wireless and Infrastructure Obsolescence**
  - Marty Tennant *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 11:29:53 -0700*
- **Wireless verses ?**
  - Jan Bolluyt *Thu, 12 Sep 1996 00:03:37 -0500*

**Last message date:** *Sun 15 Sep 1996 - 17:17:32 EDT*

**Archived on:** *Sun Sep 15 1996 - 17:25:52 EDT*

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*This archive was generated by hypermail 1.02.*

# Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar

Bob Carlitz ([bob@info-ren.pitt.edu](mailto:bob@info-ren.pitt.edu))

Mon, 9 Sep 1996 11:38:22 -0400 (EDT)

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu: "SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video"
  - **Next in thread:** Margaret Honey: "Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar"
- 

If you have a bookmark for

<http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/this-week.html>

you may already have seen the material which sets up the structure of the seminar for the upcoming week. A few highlights are as follows:

\* In order to facilitate the active participation of a larger fraction of the people registered for the seminar, we have put together an on-line survey which deals with questions which were at the heart of last week's discussion, namely those having to do with the SCOPE of Universal Service subsidies. You can access the survey through the "this-week" page or directly at

<http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/survey.html>

Please write to

[info@info-ren.pitt.edu](mailto:info@info-ren.pitt.edu)

if you have any problems with the survey or other aspects of the Universal Service/Network Democracy Web site.

The "this-week" page contains a summary of points raised in last week's discussion which you might want to consult before completing the survey. Please try to complete the survey in the next two days, after which a summary of results will be posted.

At the end of last week we were able to announce the possibility of college credit for participants in the seminar. Please write to [info@info-ren.pitt.edu](mailto:info@info-ren.pitt.edu) if you are interested in this option.

The current week's discussion will focus on the following question:

Allocation: Who Gets the Subsidies and Under What Conditions?

As indicated in this week's notes, this question covers a number of issues, such as

- \* Should there be cash grants or vouchers?
- \* Should there be an "E-rate" for schools and libraries?
- \* Should there be a requirement for state-approved technology plans?
- \* How should one define a bona fide request for services?
- \* Should Universal Service subsidies apply to groups which provide materials and services to schools and libraries as well as to the schools and libraries themselves?

The assignments for this week are as follows:

- \* Continue to develop summaries of material submitted

to the FCC

- \* Participate in the on-line discussion
- \* Complete the on-line survey mentioned above

We are nearing the half-way point in the current seminar, so if you have not yet spoken up, you should make a concerted effort to do so. You direct participation in the on-line discussion is invited, and your participation in the on-line survey is strongly urged and would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,  
Bob Carlitz  
Moderator

- 
- **Next message:** WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu: "SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video"
  - **Next in thread:** Margaret Honey: "Re: Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar"

# SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video

WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu

Mon, 09 Sep 1996 09:08:43 -0500 (EST)

- Messages sorted by: [ date || thread || subject || author ]
- Next message: Rex Buddenberg: "radio-WAN"
- Previous message: Bob Carlitz: "Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar"

Bob Carlitz and Information Renaissance, you are providing an outstanding public service. The seminar, its resources, and participants are fascinating, maybe too much so for my limited time and knowledge of network communications.

This is my first and unfortunately my last contribution to the Seminar. I must drop out. Given the volume of down loading, printing, reading, and studying for the seminar and the demands of my job, I can not continue. But before I go, here some rambling thoughts and questions!

Re: SCOPE of Universal Service Subsidies

I agree with the several who have advocated discounts for All Available Services (such as voice-data-video), as opposed to discounts for Limited and Identified Services (such as text based Internet).

Having said this, I have one major question with many small parts which relate to my special area of interest: Public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access programming which is generated by schools and libraries for viewers of cable TV.

In reference to Universal Service provision of the new law,

- What are "telecommunications services" and particularly what are "advanced telecommunications and information services"?
- Do these either of these concepts, now or in the future, encompass video programming such is now produced by library patrons/school students and distributed over PEG access channels on cable TV?
- How about the same programming which the public can view over open video systems (OVS) operated by common carriers? What exactly are OVSs and common carriers?
- Is an I-net an "advance" telecom service? I am told that I-nets use several cable TV channels to carry advanced data and graphical services between local schools, libraries, and other community institutions.

With federal and state (in NH) deregulation, providers of communication/information services over wire are beginning to deliver both "cable TV" and "phone". Cable TV subscribers have had the benefit of federally mandated, local franchising to ensure that schools and libraries may provide and receive access channel programming. Access channel provision is ensured only through generous political will on the local level, though. On the other hand, residents of low population density areas (often including their schools and libraries) have no cable service and, therefore, no way to receive PEG access channel programming. Even in a small community, there can be significant numbers of households which have no opportunity for cable and PEG access programming. Partly due to Universal Service subsidies, these same cable TV "have nots" do have phone service.

As the "access manager" of our local PEG access channel, I am wondering whether there is anything in the Universal Service provision that will empower our school students and library patrons to send their video messages over wire to the cable TV "have nots" in our community? Do these citizen producers of video have to await the economic feasibility of TV cable reaching all homes, or for high speed data/phone lines in a universal-service-subsidized, telco world to give the cable "have nots" WWW access to video via the home page of the local school or library?

Under Section 254, UNIVERSAL SERVICE, (c) Definition: (1) In General, there is mention of an "...evolving level of telecommunication services ..." that could receive support depending on the extent that certain conditions exist. Four conditions are specified. Some time in the future, would this provision be applicable to gaining subsidization for extending advanced video services to phone customers living in remote parts of communities where cable TV operators refuse to serve because of low-density-mile?

If all this is soo far out to left field, please do not attempt to answer all these questions over the seminar mailing list. I don't want to waste busy people's time. However, I'd be pleased to hear from anyone who wants to e-mail me directly!

Wally Stuart

~~~~~  
Wallace S. Stuart, Access Manager  
Plymouth Community Channel 3  
Pease Public Library  
1 Russell Street  
Plymouth, NH 03264-1414 e-mail: wstuart@psc.plymouth.edu  
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- Next message: Rex Buddenberg: "radio-WAN"
  - Previous message: Bob Carlitz: "Welcome to Week Three of the On-line Seminar"

# radio-WAN

Rex Buddenberg ([budden@nps.navy.mil](mailto:budden@nps.navy.mil))  
Mon, 09 Sep 96 09:34:55 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ date ] [ thread ] [ subject ] [ author ]
  - Next message: Rex Buddenberg: "Re: Scope of Universal Service"
  - Previous message: WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu: "SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video"
- 

> delivery systems. In the western states, and probably Alaska or Hawaii,  
> there are many locations still not wired for POTS. It is very expensive  
> to extend phone service to these areas because population density is so  
> low. Do the wireless satellite systems represent a solution?  
>

You are entirely correct -- POTS service in rural areas is not complete. Which is one of the reasons cellular is popular in these areas.

A tech tutorial. There are three sets of technology in this area, two of which may be applicable to rural situations:

- cellular telephone. It wasn't long after a POTS-oriented cellular provider made something available that folks started plugging in modems and trying out their computers. It works. There are several flavors of cellular telephone with different pricing structures, different coverage areas and different amenability to use for data (for instance, FM cellular is best for bulk file transfers; CDPD is better for small intermittent messages). In another couple of years, we should see the Big LEOs in operation which will provide global cellular telephone coverage. The drawback is that all of these systems were designed with circuit-switching voice applications in mind ... they're not very Internet savvy (CDPD is an exception to this blanket indictment). I just had one of my classes set up Internet over American Mobile Satellite Corp connectivity and they ran into the mindset in spades (the report will be up on <http://vislab-www.nps.navy.mil/~seanet> in a couple weeks; what's there now is a draft).

- VSAT. Very Small Aperture satellite comms. This is the dish in the back yard aimed at a geosynchronous satellite. You get a point-point connection to a switch somewhere and from there out to the rest of either the voice network or the Internet. Most of the vendors understand you when you say X.25.

For rural schools without decent copper POTS, I'd suggest this alternative as a WAN provider. These companies do not fall under the Act's umbrella of 'telecom provider' (what we used to call common carrier) so I'm not sure the Act and its supporting regulations can provide that kind of subsidy (wish somebody versed in the legalese could answer that).

- wireless LANs. For completeness. There are several vendors providing wireless LAN equipment. But this is an offset for your in-building or campus wiring, not the WAN. Most of the vendors offer products that are essentially ethernet, but with RF transmitters and receivers where the copper or fiber drivers used to be.

Rex Buddenberg

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- **Next message:** Rex Buddenberg: "Re: Scope of Universal Service"
- **Previous message:** WSTUART@psc.plymouth.edu: "SCOPE of US SUBSIDIES and video"

# Re: Scope of Universal Service

Rex Buddenberg ([budden@nps.navy.mil](mailto:budden@nps.navy.mil))

Mon, 09 Sep 96 09:48:36 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date | thread | subject | author ]
  - **Next message:** St. Francis School: "Re: Schools reselling????"
  - **Previous message:** Rex Buddenberg: "radio-WAN"
- 

When I was a kid (farm in Nebraska), our refrigerator door had a clipped comment, attributed to 'an old Indian' that describes this perfectly:

Like a blood transfusion taken out of one arm and put back into the other. And with the government running it, half gets lost along the way.

[Moderator's Note: This raises an interesting question, namely the administrative cost of the present Universal Service fund. I had assumed that, because of its simple circular nature, the present fund is probably efficient to administer, but I haven't seen any figures on this. I gather from the on-line comments that the National Exchange Carrier Association has the present contract for this activity, and that it's not directly carried out by the government. A definite worry with a Universal Service which would be much broader than the present one is that it could be very difficult and expensive to administer, which would certainly act to undercut its intended purpose.]

> "businesses" pay the subsidy. If the flow of funds is "circular", it  
> is a long loop running from one set of consumers to another with some  
> overlap. Companies and businesses in the loop are only tax  
> collectors; collecting at the behest of government from one set of  
> consumers in prices and distributing to others in subsidies. Once

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- **Next message:** St. Francis School: "Re: Schools reselling????"
- **Previous message:** Rex Buddenberg: "radio-WAN"

# Bona Fide Request Process

Marty Tennant ([marty@sccoast.net](mailto:marty@sccoast.net))  
Mon, 09 Sep 1996 13:40:25 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ [date](#) ] [ [thread](#) ] [ [subject](#) ] [ [author](#) ]
  - Next message: [St. Francis School: "Re: second week thoughts"](#)
  - Previous message: [St. Francis School: "Re: Schools reselling???"](#)
  - Next in thread: [Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Bona Fide Request Process"](#)
- 

This post was originally sent to our SCIway listserv.

I wanted to share this with the group as an example of a process that could be a checklist item for confirming that a bona fide request, under USF parlance, had been made.

In other words, real community involvement in the process.

Marty

++++

Paul Lewis wrote:

I can't think of a better way for government agencies to support civic development, economic development, education, and greater citizen involvement in improving the quality of life in local communities than for agencies to use technology to facilitate citizen access to taxpayer funded public data and documents.

Using technology as an excuse for charging fees undercuts all of these goals.

++++++

Paul,

Thank you for bringing this article to our attention.

IMO, it is important for citizens to have these issues discussed in a community setting.

I am interested in seeing a Citizen's Communications Committee (CCC) concept implemented in all counties in SC. Many communities are doing this in various places in the US. Some are in the form of Cable TV advisory boards that go across municipal boundaries. Lately their scope has been broadened to include emerging technology convergence issues.

I believe that the county librarian should be responsible for bringing this to a seed stage by inviting the appropriate parties and citizens together in each county for a visit to the library. It would also help to have the economic development official for the county involved. I am not advocating the library driving this issue. Just getting the seed going. The idea will be taken up and incorporated into something new, I

would hope, returning the librarian to their traditional, and changing, role.

It is imperative that all community, government and county businesses viewpoints be solicited and incorporated.

We are in the process of doing this in Georgetown County, thanks to the initiative of our County Economic Development Director, David Sandora.

David has arranged a "Telecommunications Forum" for Sept. 17th.

He has GTE, Horry Tel. Coop., AT&T, Time-Warner Cable, Ted Lightle and me as presenters, in what should be an interesting public relations parade. I am personally not above such tactics, and will be pushing my consulting services.

David is concerned that 20 years from now, our kids may be sitting around wondering why we didn't start planning for the future back in the late nineties.

I hope the librarians on the list will share this with others concerned about the future of their county's information infrastructure. The CCC concept is needed to bring information related issues to the county planning radar screen in our State.

It would be nice to see the Councils of Government resources used here too. It would also be great to see some involvement in the Universal Service issues before the PSC. Unfortunately, I can't even participate unless they issue a variance to their rules. Seems that the last date to file for intervenor status in the scheduled PSC Universal Service Docket late in October was last February.

Back to the CCC. What if we were to invite into our SCIway discussions this important component of the South Carolina pool of talent - Librarians? Every one in all 46 counties?

Would the current county librarians on SCIway respond and make themselves known? I believe you have an important calling before you. Also, does anyone keep up with email addresses for librarians in the State?

Marty Tennant  
President  
Low Tech Designs, Inc.  
"Bringing Technology Down to Earth"™

- 
- Next message: St. Francis School: "Re: second week thoughts"**
  - Previous message: St. Francis School: "Re: Schools reselling????"**
  - Next in thread: Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Bona Fide Request Process"**

# Re: Schools reselling????

St. Francis School ([stfrancis@ntr.net](mailto:stfrancis@ntr.net))

Mon, 09 Sep 1996 13:54:00 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - Next message: Marty Tennant: "Bona Fide Request Process"
  - Previous message: Rex Buddenberg: "Re: Scope of Universal Service"
- 

Instead of modem pools, consider an ISDN phone line. We keep 12 computers in a lab online in 12 different locations with the capability of changing sites at lightening speed.

Because of this capability, we rent the lab to business that in turn help us pay for our technology.

Diane Seagle  
St. Francis School  
[stfrancis@ntr.net](mailto:stfrancis@ntr.net)

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- Next message: Marty Tennant: "Bona Fide Request Process"
- Previous message: Rex Buddenberg: "Re: Scope of Universal Service"