

Wise and powerful FCC representative:

Below is a form letter composed by freetheairwaves.com which does advocate my preferred action, namely to make a large subset of the analog TV spectrum unlicensed. However, the prototypical letter doesn't illustrate the cultural phenomena likely to arise from ubiquitous wireless broadband.

The likely outcomes fall into three broad categories:

1. ubiquitous context information
2. location transparency
3. portable work and play spaces

An example of ubiquitous context information is the ability to ask your phone to direct you to the nearest Zagat-rated Indian restaurant that will be serving 20 minutes from now.

An example of location transparency is the ability to open several simultaneous long-lived verbal communication channels to acquaintances who are planning to converge on some restaurant later in the day. Perhaps one friend creates a shared virtual communication room where anyone can speak and be heard by others. If one person leaves the room, he can later return and listen to the conversation that occurred during his absence.

The first generation of portal work and play spaces are easy to recognize now. Everyone is familiar with ipod-wearing commuters and corporate road warriors. But ubiquitous information promises much more. It's easy to envision an educational device that allows a young person to indulge every whim of curiosity. For example, when a child age 10 visits a downtown mall that is located in a renovated train station, he has the opportunity to hear a narrative about other noteworthy events that occurred around the date that the building was constructed, and he has opportunity to hear an introduction to how train routing works or how a modern diesel locomotive differs from the steam engines of yesteryear. And he can maintain an electronic log of these threads of education so that he can follow a given path further at any time as whim strikes.

I strongly suspect that a carefully designed artificial market for this spectrum will hasten our progress toward this vision.

Now back to your regularly scheduled form letter....

I'm writing to urge you to open up currently unused parts of the TV spectrum (the "white spaces") for wireless broadband and other emerging technologies. I applaud the extraordinary steps the Commission has taken to realize the potential of TV white spaces to date, and encourage you to take this next step today.

The potential benefits of freeing up this important public resource, more than three-quarters of which today is unused, are overwhelming.

The white spaces can:

- * Pave the way for universal wireless broadband access;
- * Extend broadband wireless to rural areas that currently aren't connected at all;
- * Enhance the reliability of public safety communications;
- * Enable distance learning for students in remote locations or for whom traditional classroom-based learning is impractical; and,
- * Bring high-speed mobile internet access to every high school and middle school in the country.

Opening up unused TV spectrum might be one of our best remaining chances to address the digital divide by creating affordable and truly universal broadband wireless coverage in the U.S.. I urge you to take this rare opportunity to connect millions more people to the Internet.

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