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In response to AT&T's recent Q&A session regarding the IP transition, I have a few concerns I would like to voice regarding their answers.

AT&T stated that they are developing a solution for standards-based security systems, among other devices, to be used with their Uverse and wireless home phone solutions. While this is a good first step, I would like to voice a concern. AT&T mentioned they will only be supporting standards-based solutions. Many security systems, POS machines, and other devices opt to use proprietary solutions to communicate. Radio station/studio audio links, though standards based, will also likely not function as they use high speed modem and ISDN standards to communicate. These devices should all be tested, and the results of these tests should be made available to the public.

Furthermore, this will likely introduce the problem of talkoff onto their networks. Talkoff, quite simply, is a phenomenon where a machine at the distant end will interpret human voice as a signal it is listening for - in this case, the handshake from a modem or fax machine.

In the case of IP or mobile based networks, which do not contain a quality level capable of passing these signals over the same path as voice, it causes the equipment to tear down the voice path for the call, and store and forward bits from a modem as out of band data. Since this is tearing down the speech path, this effectively drops the call if there is not a fax or modem actually present. As this has been a notable problem on IP-based networks utilizing the fax over IP and modem over IP standards, there should be thorough testing done to make sure this will not happen on AT&T's implementation.

AT&T also mentioned that after the rollout of HD voice, the quality of the wireless home phone service will be "superior" to their POTS network. While this is subjective, I would like to point out that this will be using the AMR-WB codec to do so. AMR-WB is a variant of AMR, the codec currently used in AT&T's mobile network, but optimized for a higher sample rate.

Finally, as my filing address will indicate, I reside in a region where terrestrial broadband and wireless service from AT&T is not available, although POTS service is. I would like them to elaborate on what their plans for service areas like mine are, particularly as dial-up still plays a significant role in low latency IP communication for me.