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The Journal of The Institute of Telecommunications Professionals

Sunbury TE, Green St,
Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middx. TW16 6QJ.

E-mail: thejournal@theitp.org

Published by

Trojan Projects for
The Institute of Telecommunications
Professionals

ISSN: 1447-4739 © 2010

For publication data, including the
publisher's disclaimer, see page 58.



I am delighted to open this editorial with a welcome message to our two new members of The Journal's editorial board. Although they both have an association with the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at UCL, they each have widely different backgrounds and sets of skills, which will greatly enhance the mix of perspectives to help the Editorial Board to select an increasingly wider range of articles. Ian Morfett is an economist by training who had a varied career at senior management level in BT covering finance, strategy, regulatory affairs, and marketing. Before joining UCL as a teaching fellow supporting several masters courses, Ian spent two years working at the Cabinet Office. Dr. John Mitchell is a senior lecturer at UCL covering telecommunications network technology and planning, with a wide range of research interests including the challenges of broadband systems. John has many years of experience in managing courses at masters level specifically aimed at people working in the industry, and he is a well known participant at conferences.

Our first article in this edition of The Journal is by Vint Cerf, currently Vice President at Google, who many of you will know as one of the two "Fathers of the Internet". In his article – *The Open Internet: what it is, and why it matters* – Vint gives a personal and impassioned argument for keeping the Internet open and free from intervention. This is a topical, challenging and increasingly

urgent issue for the industry, given the pressures on network capacity and hence future investment generated by a growing range of bandwidth-hungry services. We are grateful to Steve Hearnden, a long-standing member of the Editorial Board, for his helpful postscript, putting Vint's article in context for us in the UK.

This brings us nicely onto the second of our articles, which is entitled **Deployment costs of rural broadband technologies**. The group of authors, six from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and two from NEC Australia Pty Ltd, present a well researched assessment of the costs of implementing a range of broadband optical fibre systems and wireless WiMAX system in the rural areas around Victoria in Australia. Although the clearly set out results relate to specific geographical areas, they indicate a good set of rules for deploying high speed broadband to rural areas in general.

Of course, another increasing application running over broadband networks and the Internet is that of Voice over IP (VoIP), which is bringing a further challenge to the telecommunications industry. A number of these issues are addressed in our third article, entitled **Voice over IP – a techno-regulatory view**, by Trefor Davies of Timico Ltd, and Louise Lancaster of Ayres Consulting Ltd. This article sets the current position in the context of the shift from the established PSTN- to a VOIP-based telephony service.

Our fourth article – **Innovation in Post Office Telecommunications** – presents a personal account of how practical advances in electronics were introduced during the 1970s within BT's predecessor, the Post Office. David Donnelly, who now runs High Level Designs Ltd, gives an insightful and interesting history of several examples of how new technology was introduced at the local level to meet practical needs.

Our next article, entitled **Customising and controlling client solutions** by Edward Smith of BT, addresses the nature of ICT solutions, which have become an increasingly important part of the service offerings of network operators as they embrace the market beyond just the

networks. In particular, Ed Smith describes how these solutions can be tailored for individual customers and gives three examples.

Evolving carrier Ethernet towards managed services and cloud computing by Nigel Stephenson of Juniper Networks Inc. presents an intriguing view of how the use of cost-effective Ethernet supports a range of the new network-based services, giving as an example the concept of "cloud computing". It is interesting to note that the ITP held a seminar on 27th May addressing **cloud computing** and a report on this event is given following this article.

I hope that you enjoy the selection of articles in this issue of The Journal.



Best wishes
Andy Valdar
Chairman, Editorial Board

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