



Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating CBICC

CBICC MINUTES

CERC, Rocky Hill, CT, June 6, 2011 ♦ 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Introductions

Mike Chowanec, Cablevision
Burt Cohen, Murtha Cullina LLP
Rob Earley, Comcast
Lou Manzione, *CBICC Chairman*, University of Hartford
Jack McCoy, Town of Manchester
Matt Miller, Consultant
Peter Pescosolido, DPUC
Patrick O'Brien, OPM
Anthony Santino, Independent Businesses
Bill Vallée, Office of Consumer Counsel
Robert Vietzke, CBICC Vice Chairman, Internet 2

Also Present: Ann Bertini and Richard Strauss with CASE

Not Present: John Emra, AT&T

Call for Approval of December 2010 Minutes Cohen moved to accept the March minutes. Santino seconded. O'Brien requested that they be amended to reflect the fact that he was present at the meeting. All were in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

Guest Speaker: Ken Wiggin, State Librarian ([Click for attendant presentation](#))

Wiggin noted that libraries respond to social change and the local community in which they are situated. While Connecticut does not have county libraries, people in the state can use any branch – not just their local library.

KEY POINT: Public internet is now fully expected at public libraries. Libraries will need scalable high speed Internet access to support: Cloud computing; Public Internet Access; E-Resources that are replacing print resource; Social Media (libraries were doing this before the CT Dept. of Information Technology had a policy).

Wiggin discussed iCONN.org which provides common licensed databases, so a student or library user in any town has access to this resource.

- Libraries were early adopters of automation and technology. In CT, libraries began automating in 1977. Libraries offer:
 - Equity of access
 - Government services & information
 - Job search help and tech skills training
- Internet access is now key to a library's functioning.

Often people come to libraries without an e-mail account so librarians are doing much more teaching and training. Long form reading is still important and people are not as skilled at it as they once were and this is a concern.

E-books present some challenges. Copyright is not allowed in the same way as for a print book. When you buy

an e-book you are actually leasing it. This limits library ability to lend e-books. Libraries are working with publishers to ensure equitable access to eBooks and eReaders.

Small presses and university presses will benefit from e-books. Good books that would have “gone out of print” will still be accessible.

- *E-book sales are growing*. What is behind that? Though big box stores are closing, this does not mean that no one reads print books.
- E-Books pose challenges for school libraries in terms of content, group access and ease of use (see slide).

Digital Content Beyond E-Books (iCONN.org; CT History Online; Digitization projects; Audio books)
& *New Opportunities*

- Less time and resources curating book collections
- Repurpose library buildings as dynamic community and learning spaces—
 - YOUmediaCenter at the Chicago Public Library and soon to be at Harford Public Library
- VoIP

Regarding E-resources replacing print: The state is no longer providing print copies of state statutes for example. There is work to be done to ensure authentication (properly dating and titling material). Wiggin cited example of needing to look up 2003 driver’s license manual and finding that it was not dated.

DISCUSSION

- Per Wiggin, libraries do a lot of training of the public and training of staff with regard to best practices for the web.
- There are still things we need to keep in print.
- Schools have to understand that kids are going to go on the internet. The Internet brings resources into small libraries that could not otherwise afford it (New Canaan model cited; great trust and lee way provided to students).

Q: Does library coordinate with labor department?

A: The State Library has had meetings with Labor Dept and Workforce Development. We would like more funding for online training.

OTHER DISCUSSION

- Jack McCoy mentioned his handout on the Wifi array by XIRRUS which could potentially be put on poles to further wireless broadband, enabling a move away from cell towers which are unpopular for siting.
- Chowanec pointed out that the Cablevision business model is building on enhancing service to customers.
- Vietzke mentioned that the ConnectAmerica fund has billions.

Update on CASE Study: Guidelines for the Development of a Strategic Plan for Access to and Adoption of Broadband Services in Connecticut (Vallée, Bertini)

Vallée summarized a few of the findings from the CASE study focus groups.

- Lack of awareness in Fairfield County that there are areas of the state that still do not get broadband.
- Low income parents emphasized that they need broadband and it should be more affordable. Some do not have transportation to get to a library.
- There are many home-based businesses in Litchfield County despite the access issues.

Ann Bertini explained that the study has reached the recommendations formulation phase. The CASE report is the development of guidelines for a strategic plan on broadband. The CASE report will go to Bill Vallée who will then write the actual strategic plan for the state.

Vallée also mentioned T. Basil Smith recently retired of IBM who gave an engaging presentation on cloud computing. There was discussion of why CT does not have more cloud business and the answer was decidedly electricity costs. Miller noted that the key things for data centers are:

- 1) access to the broadband infrastructure backbone
- 2) geologically stable area
- 3) cheap power [for AC needs]. Also data centers are not interested in being in the power business.

Often latency issues go all the way back to the servers where data is stored, according to Vietzke. “The speed of light actually does catch up with you,” he said. “At 1,000 km latency catches up with you and you see it at the keystroke level.”

The question was raised as to whether CT is too small for datacenters but Vietzke noted that it is more of a regional question/issue.

Vietzke talked about two projects he recently became aware of US-Ignite & Gig-U

- **US Ignite** from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is about developing advanced broadband applications. Twenty cities have signed up, per Vietzke. Perhaps that would be good to watch and copy here. Visit: <http://www.cccb.org/2011/05/16/live-webcast-the-u-s-ignite-gigabit-applications-workshop/>.

May 24th, 2011 by Erwin Gianchandani

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)NSF - Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)What would you do with a 1 Gbps, layer 2 programmable, sliceable network?

That's the central question underlying the US Ignite Gigabit Applications Workshop, a daylong meeting co-hosted by the NSF's CISE Directorate and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) early last week.

- **Gig-U** is about aggregating demand sets and then going to the marketplace and offering up those demand sets for best market offer. There are 50 universities signed up. The schools are talking about what their demand is and then bidding that out to the market. They are pledging just the demand set.

Similar to the Google Kansas City project has almost no money invested ... customers have to sign on and say they will buy the service and then Google will build it.

Encouraging Adoption (Manzione)

How do we draw to firm recommendations about adoption? Manzione reviewed FCC SSRC material which shows that:

- Cost is the #1 reason people do not adopt at 36%,
- followed by literacy at 22%,
- then lack of relevance at 19%
- and unwanted content at 10-12%.

McCoy noted that facilitating private industry to improve infrastructure will drive down cost. Cohen noted that CT tax policy is also an issue. It was also noted that Comcast has a new program being launched that will provide low-cost (\$9.95/month) broadband service and a computer for \$150 to families that are on the school lunch program.

There was further discussion of digital literacy, seniors and the low-income community. McCoy asked if low-income is the unemployed or underemployed? He suggested the CBICC consider a teleconference with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. Strauss proposed inviting Dept. of Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshal to the Fall CBICC meeting.

CASE Study: It was decided, as time was short, that the CBICC would hold a conference call (now scheduled for June 23, 10-12) to review how the CBICC will relate to the CASE study report and ultimately the state strategic plan on *Accessibility to and Adoption of Broadband Services in Connecticut*.

McCoy reported that GMIS (Government Management Information Sciences) is working on three different topics that may have some issues the BICC could pick up on.

There was no public comment.

Adjourned.