

# **Applications for Narrow-Band Audio Streams** Eric William Burger

**Chief Scientist** 

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#### **Focus**

 What Characteristics of Applications Are Applicable for Consumer Users of Voice-over-IP Technology?



# Roadmap

- Current State of the Art
- Issues Affecting Streaming Multimedia Quality
- Implications for Applications
- Application Examples
- Summary



# Where's IP Telephony Today

- Important Advances Made Since 1995
  - Protocols
  - Codecs



# Important Protocols: RSVP/MPLS

- Effect is to Create Switched Virtual Circuits
- Bandwidth and Latency Allocated and Statistically Available
- Makes Sense in the Backbone:
  Lots of Bandwidth and Low Latency



# Important Protocols: RTP/ RTCP

- Monitors Bandwidth and Latency
- Provides Data to Application about Available Quality of Service
- Provides Capability to Application to Modify Codec on Fly



### What Works

- Managed IP Backbone
  - Guaranteed Latency
  - Guaranteed Bandwidth
- Long-distance Toll-bypass
  - Two-stage or Tandem Access
  - Inter-PBX Access



## Latency Issues

- Narrow-Band Environment is Over 90% of Consumer IP Access (Dial-Up)
- Intractable Given Current Technology
  - Low Bit-Rate Connection
  - V.42bis Buffering
  - Hardware Compression Buffering
  - (Goodman TON 5/99 & VON '99)



# Why Do Consumers Use VoIP?

- Satisfactory for Price-Sensitive,
  Quality-Insensitive Users
- ◆ PC-to-PC
- PC-to-PSTN
- Similar to Quality of Early MCI Long-Lines



# Latency Futures

- Will Be Addressed With DSL,
  Cable, and Broadband Wireless
- ◆ BUT: Even in 2003, 77% of Consumer IP Access will be Via Dial-Up (Jupiter Communications)



# Narrow-Band Streaming Audio

- "It Sounds Good" Phenomena
- Until You Answer Back
- Quality
  - Full-Duplex: Not So Good
  - Half-Duplex: Quite Satisfactory



# Leverage What Works

- Full-Duplex Issues
  - Will Be Solved
  - Over Time
  - Not Today For Vast Majority of Consumer Users
- Consumer-Oriented Applications
  - Leverage Half-Duplex Operation



## Summary

- Do What Works Well
- Half-Duplex Voice-over-IP for Consumer Applications
- Full-Duplex Is Far In The Future for Broad Consumer Use
  - Will Be Available for High-End Consumer Use



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#### **Contact Information**

Eric W. Burger

**Chief Scientist** 

Centigram Communications Corporation

Maryland Technology Center

1375 Piccard Dr., MS 150V

Rockville, MD 20850-4311 USA

Tel./Fax: +1 301/212-3320

E-Mail: e.burger@ieee.org

