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First Mile

December 20, 2004

First Mile is a twice-monthly publication targeting the interests of research, education, commerce, state and local government and the general public in addressing the issues surrounding the implementation of robust end-to-end broadband capabilities to every education institution, business and home in California.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The old argument goes that if you have great people they will come up with great ideas. My perspective is different: If you have a great idea, then you can find great people to implement it."
Guy Kawasaki on his video Venture Capital Tips on Forbes.com, http://www.forbes.com/columnists/columnists/2004/11/04/cx_gk_1104artofthetstart.html

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. WIRELESS NET ACCESS ARRIVES AT EUROSTAR'S WATERLOO Wi-Fi hotspots are coming to the Eurostar terminals at Waterloo International and Ashford International. Broadreach has won the contract to provide its ReadyToSurf? service at the railway stations.

The company already provides Wi-Fi Zone coverage for Piccadilly in London and has worked with Virgin Trains to create a specialist subsidiary to provide on-train Internet access.

'Introducing Wi-Fi access to Waterloo and Ashford gives our customers more time to catch up on work before they travel and ensures they arrive at their destination fully prepared,' said Paul Charles, Director of Communications, Eurostar.

Read more about this service at <http://www.comp-buyer.co.uk/buyer/broadband/news/archive>

2. DOES THE 'HALO 2' EFFECT THREATEN BROADBAND? The rapid growth in online game playing will put pressure on broadband networks to evolve, according to research published this week by Sandvine.

The Internet traffic-monitoring company said Tuesday that Microsoft's "Halo 2"--a popular first-person shooter game--has boosted traffic on Xbox Live as players rush to compete over the Net.

Sandvine's latest statistics showed that Xbox Live traffic quadrupled when "Halo 2" was launched on Nov. 9, and it has stayed at that level since. Sandvine claims that this will put added pressure on ISPs to improve the quality of their broadband offerings, as users will demand reliability and low latency.

To find out more, visit http://news.com.com/Does+the+Halo+2+effect+threaten+broadband/2100-1034_3-5481727.html

3. LOUISIANA TOWN AWAITS TELEPHONE AGE It's no secret what the 15 householders in this tiny settlement want for Christmas: the same thing they have always wanted year round--telephones.

But now the 19th century is catching up with Mink and other isolated areas. Pushed by the state's Public Service Commission, BellSouth, at what it says is enormous expense, is wiring Mink for telephone service scheduled to start by March. Shaw and Black Hawk, where the geography defies wiring, are to have cellular towers.

"I'm so excited I can't hardly contain it," said Louise Bolton, 83, a widow in Mink who, like her neighbors, relies on a clunky analog bag phone the size of a flat desk model that transmits the voice on a radio band.

To read more, visit http://news.com.com/Louisiana+town+awaits+telephone+age/2100-1037_3-5488277.html?tag=nefd.ac

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4. WASHINGTON COUNTY VILLAGE AGGRESSIVE IN PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Del Beaver is determined not to let the village of Jackson become another bedroom community in the shadow of a large metro area.

Without even trying, the Washington County community has been experiencing steady growth in its residential population. However, Beaver, the village administrator, and others believe that with a little extra effort, Jackson can become a hub for high-end, tech-related businesses.

A primary driver of Jackson's economic development strategy is the decision in late 2003 to form a municipal telecom utility that will operate a wireless broadband network serving business and residential customers.

To read more, visit <http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2004/10/04/focus1.html>

POLICY

5. FCC TO CONSIDER ALLOWING CELL PHONES ON PLANES The FCC has proposed to relax its ban on the use of cellular phones in flight. It will auction radio frequencies in the 800MHz band in the hopes of spurring new onboard services that could include voice, data and broadband internet access, the agency said in a statement.

The services could be provided for commercial, military and general aviation. The FCC proposed three possible configurations of the spectrum, all of which are designed to ensure at least two operators in that band, and will let private industry settle on one.

Find out more at <http://www.computerweekly.com/articles/article.asp?liArticleID=135901&liArticleTypeID=1&liCategoryID=6&liChannelID=2&liFlavourID=1&sSearch=&nPage=1>

6. HIGH COURT TO HEAR BROADBAND CASES The Supreme Court said Friday it will consider whether Internet providers should be allowed to sell their high-speed service over the cable television system.

Justices will hear two cases challenging a lower ruling forcing cable companies to open their lines to Internet competition. That October 2003 decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has been stayed pending the outcome of appeals.

At issue is whether cable-based broadband is a "telecommunications service" that makes it subject to the same FCC rules that phone companies must adhere to — such as allowing access to independent Internet providers.

Read more about these cases at
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/12/03/tech/main659028.shtml>

TECHNOLOGY

7. SURVEY: MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP OF BROADBAND NETWORKS IS TOO RISKY Municipal ownership of broadband networks, once threatened by cities as a way to pressure cable and telephone companies to live up to contractual promises, no longer makes financial or technological sense, according to a study by The Heartland Institute.

The widespread availability of broadband technology, industry innovation, stiff competition among providers, and falling prices, means that municipal ownership of broad networks is risky for taxpayers, no boon to economic development, and could leave cities owning outdated networks, concludes the new report, "Municipally Owned Broadband Networks: A Critical Evaluation."

To find out more, visit <http://nwc.advancedpipeline.com/technology/51000444>

IMPLEMENTATION

8. BROADBAND KENTUCKY DERBY: A RACE TO CONNECT THE STATE Kentucky's effort to bring broadband access to all its citizens by 2007 got a boost Wednesday, with the announcement that broadband power line provider (BPL) Broadband Horizons has joined the state's ConnectKentucky campaign.

Broadband Horizons will provide engineering services, broadband-network design, and broadband implementation plans to a number of Kentucky communities. ConnectKentucky is a non-profit agency with government and private funding that has gathered an array of government, business, and non-profits to bring high-speed broadband to the state.

Read more about Kentucky's plans at <http://internetweek.com/breakingNews/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=54201699>

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ABOUT CENIC'S GIGABIT OR BUST INITIATIVE

CENIC's One Gigabit or Bust Initiative addresses critical technical, policy, economic and implementation challenges facing the delivery of one gigabit broadband to all Californians by 2010. Its Roundtable brings together the interests of research, education, commerce, state and local government and the general public to address the issues surrounding the implementation of robust end-to-end broadband capabilities to every education institution, business and home in California.

ABOUT CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at www.cenic.org.

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You can subscribe and unsubscribe to First Mile by visiting: <http://lists.cenic.org/mailman/firstmile>

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