

Historical Road Map of  
Telecommunication Industry  
and Technology Application  
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Public Utilities Commission

# Early Days

- Initially there was the :
- Belize Telecommunications Authority – responsible for the National and Regional telecommunications services
- Cable and Wireless PLC – responsible for the International telecommunications services

# Technology

- Analogue
  - Circuit Switch

H. F. (High Frequency) Communications  
Earth Station

# Industry Reform

- April 1987 the Assets of the Belize Telecommunication Authority was vested into the Newly formed entity the Belize Telecommunications Limited
- The Belize Telecommunications Act, 1987 was enacted
- The Belize Telecommunications Limited was granted a 15 years exclusive license from December 30, 1987.

# Technology

- Digital
  - Circuit Switch
  - Digitalization of Earth Station

- With a monopoly industry in place the Office of Telecommunications was formed to administer the monopoly licensee and this office was also responsible for Spectrum Management activities.

# PUC

- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was formed in August 1999.
- However it was until 2002 when its function was expanded to regulate the Telecommunication Industry.

# A Policy Framework for the Telecommunication Sector in Belize

- Both the PUC and the Government developed the policy framework which mapped the future direction and development of the industry and which formed the basis from which the Belize Telecommunications Act, 2002 was developed and enacted in August 2002.

- This act repealed the 1987 Act but allowed all licenses, permits or permission to continue to operate until the expiration of the license with the condition that it was the PUC that shall perform the duties and functions assigned to the Director of Telecommunications under the repealed Act.

# Regulator Mandate

- The Belize Telecommunication Act, 2002 became the governing legislation at the expiration of the BTL monopoly license.
- Allows for the development of the industry through competition – as per the subsequent regulations enacted (S.I. 110)

# Licenses

- In December 2002, two Individual Licenses were granted –
  - The Belize Telecommunications Limited
  - The International Telecommunications Limited
- In August 2003, an Individual License was granted to Speednet Communications Limited

- Over the period December 2002 to present the PUC has granted over 20 Class License such as Internet Services, Reseller, Data Networks and Private Domestic Network.

# I.P.

- Internet Protocol – a set of rules by which computers are able to communicate with each others across a network
  - Packet Switching
  - Primarily the World Wide Web (www)
  - In the early 1990's BTL provided access to the Internet (dial-up)

# Improved Technology

- Improvements in the set of rules e.g. real time protocol (RTP) and improved hardware has allowed the use of headsets and microphones on the home computer for users to speak with each other
- Software applications have been developed to improve on the quality of the communications (computer based or server based).

- The set of rules have become so developed and the quality improved that we have VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol)
- EoIP (Everything over Internet Protocol)