

Opportunities & Threats for VOIP in Belize

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Presentation Overview

- Address several questions:
- 1. What is VOIP?
- 2. What are the advantages of VOIP in Belize?
- 3. What are the consequences of blocking VOIP in Belize?
- 4. Why would an ISP block VOIP?
- 5. Where is VOIP blocked?
- 6. Where is VOIP allowed?
- 7. What are UB's recommendations?

What is VOIP?

- VOIP = Voice over Internet Protocol
- Voice communication over the Internet or other data network.
- H323, SIP, and Skinny are a few of the protocols that VOIP uses

What are the advantages of VOIP in Belize?

- Increased access to education
- Increased economic activities
- Cost-effective expansion of communication services

Increased Access to Education

- VOIP technology is used extensively in the delivery of online education.
- Online education needs voice, data and video to be transmitted simultaneously.

Increased Economic Activities

- VOIP allows cheaper and more effective communication and collaboration between local organizations and partners in other locations (nationally and internationally).

Cost-effective Expansion of Services

- It is cheaper and easier to implement VOIP in rural communities than regular phone service.
- VOIP is faster to deploy than traditional phone services.

What are the consequences of blocking VOIP in Belize?

- Effective online education and e-learning will be impossible without VOIP.
- Economic activities will be impeded since voice, data and video communication between local and international organizations are severely limited due to current high costs of and limitations in existing phone services.

What are the consequences of blocking VOIP in Belize?

- Deployment of communication services to rural areas will continue to be delayed.
- Other IP services, such as e-mail, video conferencing, web surfing, instant messaging and gaming, will be degraded.

Why would an ISP block VOIP?

- ISP has a strangle hold on Internet services in Belize.
- ISP currently uses VOIP technology to provision long distance service and inflate its costs.
- ISP also provides phone services and pre-supposes that VOIP will reduce its revenue from phone services.

Where is VOIP currently blocked?

- North Korea – blocks all IP services
- China – limits IP services
- Some Middle Eastern countries (usually, monarchies and dictatorships)
- Belize?

Where is VOIP allowed?

- United States of America
- Europe
- Most of Asia
- Most of Central America
- Most of the Caribbean
- Belize?

What are UB's recommendations?

- Remove all blocks to IP services, such as VOIP.
- Promote distance education and e-learning in Belize using VOIP.
- Encourage increased economic activities using VOIP.

What are UB's recommendations?

- Protect consumer privacy by removing technology used to block VOIP.
- Ensure that as a national resource, ARCOS is not controlled by private entities.

What are UB's recommendations?

- Create a technical advisory body to work with policy makers, regulators, the National University, service providers and consumers to proactively address technical issues of national impact.
- Encourage greater competition in Belize's ISP market.

Summary

- VOIP can enhance Belize's educational services and economic growth.
- ISPs should not be concerned about how consumers use their purchased bandwidth.
- PUC should, like the FCC, fulfill its mandate to protect the consumers.