

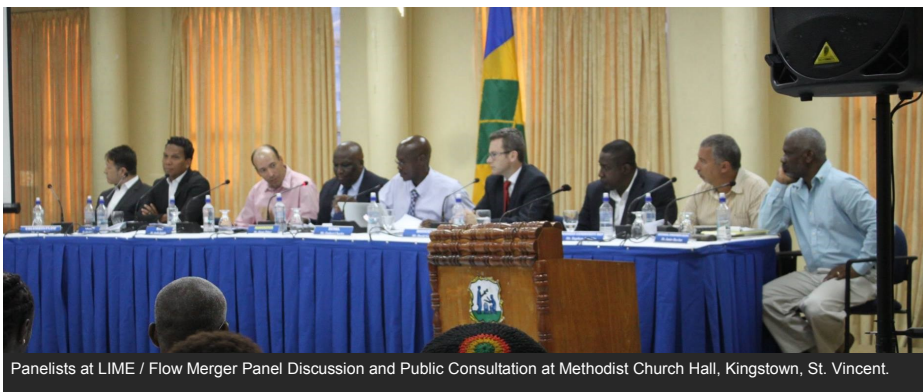


THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

ICT NEWSLETTER

NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER ISSUE #58

February 2015



Panelists at LIME / Flow Merger Panel Discussion and Public Consultation at Methodist Church Hall, Kingstown, St. Vincent.

Vincentians educated on the implications of LIME/Flow Merger in SVG

On February 23, 2015, Vincentians were given the opportunity to learn more of the possible implications of the impending LIME / Flow merger to the Vincentian public via a Panel Discussion and Public Consultation event held at the Methodist Church Hall in Kingstown. The event which was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) and The Chamber of Industry and Commerce featured several panelists including service providers, regulators, business community and consumer association representatives.

Columbus Communications representative John Reid and Cable and Wireless Communications representative, Chris Dehring alluded to the fact that the impending merger would bring benefits to St. Vincent and the Grenadines due to a \$32 million investment which will create 500 jobs over the next five years and improvement of their network infrastructure and services provided. CWC's Chris Dehring reassured the public that the memories of high prices, poor customer service and poor quality of services received from CWC while they were in a monopoly will be no more as the company has evolved over the years.

On the contrary, David Geary of Digicel warned the public that the merger of LIME and Flow would result in a monopoly on fixed voice, fixed broadband and subscriber tv services in St. Vincent which would result in higher prices and poor quality of service due to the lack of competition. He also added that with the merged company would be able to offer bundled services at lower costs which could result in a "lock in effect" when consumers are unable to terminate a part of the service due to terms and conditions stipulated in the bundled package.

NTRC's Director, Mr. Apollo Knights also made his presentation highlighting the structure of the NTRC and the Telecommunications Act of 2001 under which the Commission operates. He told the gathering the Commission's operations are limited by the clauses stipulated in the act, but indicated that he would like for the Commission to do more such as regulating mobile services given the increase in rates over the past 12 years.

At the end of the presentations, the public was given an opportunity to pose questions to the panelists. The event was aired live on radio, television and live streaming over the internet.

Source: NTRC

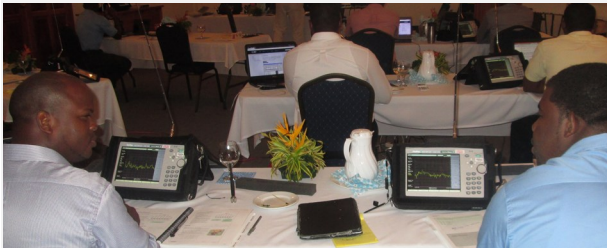
Cyber Safety Tips



The internet and mobile phones provide a great way to communicate and express yourself with others, but it's important to make sure they're used responsibly so that everybody has an enjoyable online experience. Here are some Cyber Safety Tips:

1. Use a strong password (a combination of upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers)
2. Don't believe everything you read – make sure you know it's coming from a reliable source.
3. Don't give out any private information over the internet or through mobile phones about you, your family, friends or other people that you know.
4. Make sure your social networking profile is set to private (check your security settings).

Anritsu Interference Analysis Workshop held in SVG for ECTEL Member States



A section of participants at the Anritsu Interference Analysis Workshop

Technical personnel from within the NTRCs of ECTEL member states (Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis) all converged at Beachcombers Hotel in St. Vincent for a 3 day workshop on interference analysis. The workshop was facilitated by Jeremy Donimirski of Anritsu— a company specialised in manufacturing test and measurement equipment such as Radio Frequency Spectrum Analysers.

ECTEL saw the need to have this training so as to further educate the technical staff of the NTRC's on the effective use of the spectrum analysers and how they can apply their knowledge to solve interference issues that are reported.

The material covered during the program was that of a fully hands on nature given that each student were given handheld spectrum analysers and antennas to practice what they have learnt in each topic delivered. Additionally, electronic test quizzes were delivered at the end of each topic where students had to use handheld response units to answer their questions. Each student's response was delivered over radio frequency to the moderator's computer. Also as part of evaluation, participants had to undergo an interference hunting exercise to locate hidden transmitters of specific frequencies around the compound. Participants who would have scored over 70% in this program would gain an Anritsu certification.

Source: NTRC

Nevis seniors receive ICT Training



Seniors receive training at workshop

Senior citizens of Nevis now have the opportunity to learn to communicate with family and friends via the internet, through an eight-week introduction to computer class. The project is a collaborative effort of the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services' Senior Citizens Division.

The programme which will run every Thursday from 10 a.m. to midday, was the brain child of Adult and Continuing Education Officer Adina Taylor. It was launched on January 29, 2015, at the Nevis International Secondary School's computer lab at Brown Pasture, for seniors in the St. John's and St. George's parishes. Coordinator in the Senior Citizens Division Garcia Hendrickson described the computer class for senior citizens as an exciting activity. She said she looked forward to them learning to use the computer which would enable them to keep in contact with family members via email, Skype or other online means.

Hendrickson assured the participants that the computer course was not a contest and as such they would not be required to undergo any examinations. She told them they should consider the classes as fun learning and urged the quicker learners to help others.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Development Keith Glasgow said that the project was a conscious effort to enable senior citizens on Nevis to adapt to their changing environment, their change in Nevis and their changing world.

Glasgow stated that as a vulnerable group in society, the senior citizens were being provided with increasing opportunities and activities. In that instance it was technological education which would reduce their vulnerability.

Source: [ZiZonline](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

Trinidad union to mount protest against CWC/Flow merger



CWU Secretary General, Joseph Remy

The Communication Workers' Union (CWU) says it plans to step up action to prevent the Trinidad and Tobago government giving regulatory support to moves by the British telecommunications giant, Cable and Wireless Communication (CWC) to acquire Columbus Communication.

Last year, both companies announced the deal in a joint statement, saying the proposed acquisition, valued at US\$3.025 billion will enable the combined company to significantly accelerate its growth strategy, improve service delivery to customers in the region, offer customers a comprehensive portfolio of high-quality products and services, and strengthen their position against larger competitors.

CWU secretary general Joseph Remy said that CWC's acquisition of Columbus would be a "conflict of interest" since the company would have control of the operations of Flow.

"This would mean that Cable and Wireless would have the majority shareholding in a significant shareholding interest, TSTT (Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago).

"This is an open and flagrant case of conflict of interest and can also infringe on antitrust regulations. How can Cable and Wireless be allowed to compete with itself?" Remy asked.

Remy said CWU was demanding that the Trinidad and Tobago government reject the request by CWC for regulatory approval of the acquisition because it would not serve the interest of Trinidad and Tobago and will have "serious negative implications for the telecommunication sector".



CANTO and the Internet Society Announce Partnership to Promote Internet Development and Education in the Caribbean

The Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) and the Internet Society have joined forces to promote Internet development and education programs in the Caribbean region.

After years of collaborating on a wide range of programs, including a successful SPAM workshop conducted by the Internet Society at a CANTO event in the Bahamas, this new agreement will formalize the work between the two organizations.

CANTO, which started in 1985 as a state-owned telecommunication operators' organization in the Caribbean, is now a leading trade association in the ICT sector committed to helping operators and its members take advantage of and embrace the possibilities that the Internet brings.

Regenie Fräser, Secretary General of CANTO, commented, "The Internet is a key instrument to foster economic and social development, but it is not always well understood by all stakeholders. Some stakeholders may be experiencing the Internet as disruptive to their traditional business model. This agreement with the Internet Society will give us the opportunity to level up our partnership, and help us assist our region and members in getting up to speed on Internet matters and challenges, such as IP numbering, VoIP blocking, and cybersecurity. I look forward to continuing our excellent work with the Internet Society."

A global organization with more than 65,000 members, the Internet Society promotes the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for everyone. The Internet Society is also the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet's premier standards organization. With its focus on Internet technology, policy, and development, the Internet Society is well equipped to help CANTO achieve its goals.

"This partnership will give the Internet Society the opportunity to show its commitment to the Caribbean area," said Sebastian Bellagamba, Internet Society Regional Bureau Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. "We are aware of the challenges that are important for the Caribbean; for example, we know that hackers are quite active here. Through this partnership with CANTO, we will have the opportunity to address real world challenges and help to increase awareness of critical Internet issues and opportunities in this beautiful region."

Lenovo hit by Lawsuit over Superfish adware

The Chinese PC maker has found itself in hot water following recent revelations that many of its PCs include a software program called Superfish Visual Discovery. Considered either adware or spyware, Superfish tracks your Web searches and browsing activity to place additional ads on the sites you visit. The software also installs its own root certificate that leaves affected PCs more vulnerable to malware attacks.

Lenovo has apologized for the problem and has begun work to resolve it. "We messed up badly," said Peter Hortensius, Lenovo's chief technology officer, said last week.

The world's biggest computer maker, Lenovo has managed to earn a hefty profit and significant presence in the sluggish PC market. The company's laptop lineup has garnered generally good reviews. But the fact that Lenovo installed such software on its PCs could do a fair amount of damage to both its reputation and sales. Legal defense could also cost the company.

The individual suit filed February 19 in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of California by blogger Jessica Bennett charges that the Superfish software tracked her Internet use, invaded her privacy and damaged her computer. Specifically, Bennett said that she was writing a blog post on her PC when she noticed ads involving "scantly clad women" on her client's website. Later, Bennett said, she was working on a different client site when she saw the same set of ads, making her realize that it was her own computer that was infected by some type of spyware.

Source: [CNET](#)

Microsoft Offers Free Office to students Worldwide



In 2013, Microsoft said it would offer Microsoft Office 365 to U.S. students for free, provided their schools licensed the software for faculty and staff. Now, this offer is being extended worldwide.

Microsoft said on February 24, 2015 that the offer for free Office is being extended anywhere Office is available: from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, or dozens of countries around the world. As before, the school must license Office in order for its students to be eligible.

How do you check? Students can go to [office.com/getoffice365](#) and enter a school-provided email address, and teachers can visit the [office.com/teachers](#) site and do the same. (Microsoft launched this self-serve service in the United States last September.)

Microsoft has warred with Google and other office-suite providers to convince businesses, governments, and other organizations to adopt Office--and it has quietly shifted away from a disc-based, one-time Office purchase to a subscription that can be budgeted for and automatically approved year in and year out.

Why this matters: Microsoft knows an Office 365 subscription is one of those productivity safe bets that gently lock in an organization to Microsoft's products, and "train" students to prefer Office when they move on to the real world. Once there, students can buy their own personal Office 365 subscription if their employer goes another route.

As in the United States, students gain access to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access, and Publisher installed on up to five PCs or Macs, and on up to five mobile devices like iPad, Android, and Windows tablets; plus, Office Online and 1TB of OneDrive storage.

Source: [PCWorld](#)

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