



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

# ICT NEWSLETTER

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Snapshots of the NTRC Public Awareness Activities at various Schools in St. Vincent.

## NTRC continues to conduct Public Awareness Events in Schools

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) continues to conduct public awareness activities throughout schools across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Members of the Commission's staff visit these schools to enlighten students about the NTRC, how it was formed and the role it plays in regulating Telecommunications services. Additionally, the students would be informed about the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the eight projects that have been implemented thus far under this fund including the broadband service being provided at their institution and the subsidized residential broadband package where successful applicants receive broadband service for only EC\$10 per month for a 2 year period. Noting that many persons are now online through projects implemented under the Universal Service Fund, the Commission saw the need to also speak to the students and teachers on the topic of Cyber Security. Persons were informed about the different types of cyber threats and ways and means on how they can protect themselves online such as keeping software updated, using strong passwords, being skeptical and being careful of not clicking wrong links among others.

After having these short engaging sessions, students were given promotional items such as pens, rulers and informative pamphlets for them to read at a later time.

Apart from the School discussions, other forms of public awareness activities are conducted on a yearly basis to sensitize the Vincentian public about the NTRC and USF. These include: Open Day Sessions where NTRC staff would visit a learning resource center from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM to interact with members of that community; and Public discussions which are normally held on evenings at Learning Resource Centers throughout the country.

Source: [NTRC](#)



## How to Protect your Mobile Devices

Symantec reports that nearly 40% of mobile device users have experienced mobile cyber crime in the past 12 months. Here are some tips on how to protect your device(s).

- 1. Install applications from trusted sources.** Users must recognize that some applications may be malicious. If an app is requesting more permissions than seems necessary, do not install it.
- 2. Don't jailbreak your device.** To "jailbreak" or to "root" a device means to bypass important controls and gain full access to the operating system. Doing this will usually void the warranty and enables applications, including malicious ones, to bypass controls and access the data owned by other apps.
- 3. Disable unwanted services.** Capabilities such as Bluetooth and NFC can provide ease and convenience in using your smartphone. They can also provide an easy way for a nearby, unauthorized user to gain access to your data. Turn these features off when they are not required.
- 4. Keep Software Updated.** Updated software normally contains fixes to security vulnerabilities on your mobile device.



## Vincentian Youth Develops Mobile App

A locally developed mobile phone application will quite possibly change the way that businesses market their products and services in St Vincent and the Grenadines. KONSERVI, which was

conceptualized by Layou resident Cenus Hinds, was launched on May 28, 2014 for use by subscribers in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Hinds, one of the participants in the 2013 NTRC's Innovation and Ideas (I<sup>2</sup>) competition, first developed this application for a competition that was hosted by Telecommunications Provider, LIME. The application is designed to connect businesses with their customers by facilitating the advertising of various promotions, deals and events to their customers. It also allows for a two way communication, where customers can give feedback on a particular promotion.

Ayodele Pompey, the chief executive officer of Digital Spark Global, the company that actually wrote the software for the application, opined that for the first time in Vincentian history, "a business who has some particular content of interest can literally tap thousands of Vincentians on their shoulders and say here is what we're doing, this is going to be on today or tomorrow or next week. "They will be assured that their customers are notified at the same moment, at the same time and if customers want to know more information, they can call back or send an email or they can share it on social media," Pompey said. The CEO highlighted that the interesting thing about the application is that businesses will not only be able to market their product and brand, but also interact with their customers immediately about the particular subject.

The NTRC is currently putting measures in place to have certificate programs in Mobile Application Development offered at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College which will be funded by the Universal Service Fund under the SMART Project. These programs are expected to commence by September 2014.

Source: [Searchlight](#), [NTRC](#)



## St. Vincent receives 12,500 Laptops for Secondary & Tertiary Students

Secondary and Tertiary students in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are now excited that they will be receiving brand new laptops in time for next semester. The shipment of Acer branded computers arrived at the Campden Park Container Port on June 4, 2014, where they were greeted by representatives of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines including Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves. Dr. Gonsalves, revisiting the origins of the development, reminded those present at the port that St Vincent and the Grenadines had received a US \$5 million grant from the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which was promised by late president Hugo Chavez. He said that being aware that the grant was not enough to secure the notebooks, he approached Mustique resident Felix Dennis of Dennis Publishing, for his assistance in making the vision a reality.

Dennis Publishing then agreed to pay for the packaging and shipping of the laptops and also made negotiations with Microsoft to get free software licenses for the life of the laptops. Additionally, Dennis Publishing provided carrier bags for each of the laptops.

The Prime Minister indicated that technical personnel from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and IT among other individuals would be testing the laptops to ensure they are all working and ready to be distributed to the students.

The prime minister added that it is his intention to source another 1,000 laptops for the students and lecturers at the St Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

Source: [Searchlight](#)

## Snapshot of Mobile Subscriptions per Population in the Caribbean.

Country	Mobile Subscriptions /100 people
Cayman Island	172
St. Kitts & Nevis	157
Dominica	152
Venezuela	148
Antigua & Barbuda	143
Trinidad & Tobago	141
Aruba	132
St. Lucia	126
St. Vincent	124
Barbados	123
Grenada	121
Costa Rica	112
Suriname	106
Colombia	103
Jamaica	96
Dominican Republic	87
Puerto Rico	83
Bahamas	81
Guyana	69
Haiti	60
Belize	53
Cuba	15

According to the World Bank World Development Indicators Report, Cayman Islands has the most mobile subscriptions per 100 people in the Caribbean followed by St. Kitts & Nevis and Dominica. St. Vincent and The Grenadines comes in 9th with 124 subscriptions per 100 people.

The Bank in compiling its report sourced data from the International Telecommunication Union's World Telecommunication/ICT indicators database.

Source: [The Dominican](#)

## IPv4 addresses now EXHAUSTED in Latin America and the Caribbean

The allocation of internet addresses using the IPv4 protocol in Latin America and the Caribbean has hit a critical stage, the region's registry (Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre—LACNIC) warned on June 10, 2014.

It said that its IPv4 address pool had been "officially exhausted" and urged businesses and governments in the geographical area – which spreads from the Bahamas all the way down to the bottom of Chile – to act swiftly and adopt IPv6 without any further delay.

Like the rest of the world, operators based in Latin America and the Caribbean have been sluggish to respond to the depletion of IPv4 stock.

But attitudes might have to change in the region, after LACNIC said the pool of available IPv4 addresses had reached just under the 4.2 million. That number has triggered tighter control of internet resource assignment policies for the entire continent, added the registry, which has assigned more than 182 million IPv4 addresses since it was established in 2002.

To illustrate the urgency, that's a burn rate of roughly 15 million IPv4 addresses being divvied out each year. But then, operators shy of adopting IPv6 are only looking towards network address translation (NAT) that can be employed on the aged IPv4 infrastructure.

"This is an historic event; the fact that it was anticipated and announced doesn't make it any less significant," said LACNIC chief Raúl Echeberría.

"From now on, LACNIC and its National Registries will only be able to assign very small numbers of IPv4 addresses, and these will not be enough to satisfy our region's needs." The registry said that a little over 2 million addresses of the remaining IPv4 stock would be assigned in blocks of limited sizes comprising between 256 and 1,024 IP addresses. LACNIC added that companies and organisations "may only request additional resources six months after receiving a prior assignment".

Once those addresses have been assigned, existing LACNIC members will be frozen out of any further IPv4 allocations with the final two million IP addresses being reserved for newbies, the registry warned.

Source: [The Register](#)

# FCC considers improving its definition of broadband to a video-friendly 10Mbps



The FCC last set its definition of broadband as 4Mbps downstream, and 1Mbps upstream. That was fine for 2010, but it's arguably outdated in 2014

-- you can't reliably stream HD video or host high-quality video chats on that kind of connection. The agency is clearly aware that it needs to modernize, as it's drafting a proposal that would increase the baseline to at least 10Mbps down and 2.9Mbps up. It may also explore tiered definitions that vary based on regions or even times of day. Broadband in a gigabit-class city like Austin may get tougher standards than rural Wyoming, for example.

A higher baseline could help Americans by expanding the FCC's push for greater broadband adoption. The regulator might pressure internet providers into upgrading services that are borderline acceptable today, and it could insist on better technology for regions getting their first taste of broadband speeds. HD-friendly internet service could eventually become the norm. However, it won't be surprising if the agency faces resistance from carriers -- they've historically been reluctant to upgrade their networks unless there's a competitive threat, and there are quite a few places where their existing performance falls short.

Source: [Engadget](#)



## NYC Is Turning 7,000 Old Pay Phones Into WiFi Hot Spots

New York City is planning to put its rotting pay phones to good use by turning them into a massive WiFi network to supply Internet access.

The ambitious vision suggested by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg last year was requested by the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in its latest list of proposals.

The request features a realistic budget for a realistic design for a "citywide WiFi network and state-of-the-art information hubs."

The plan would outfit up to 10,000 of the city's 11,000 pay phones with hardware that would broadcast free, 24-hour WiFi within an 85-foot radius.

The phones would become kiosks of up to 21.3-feet in length and 10.3 feet in height also equipped with at least enough telephone service to place a free 911 call.

The primary purpose of the machines won't as much be to speed up the smartphones of pedestrians, but to act as a reliable Internet source for low-income residents who can't afford home Internet access.

They will also act as emergency communication sources in the case of a power outage similar to Hurricane Sandy, as pay phones are powered by phone lines and not external generators.

Source: [Elite Daily](#)



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