

HAITIAN INTERNET EXCHANGE POINT

A DIFFICULT DREAM

The Haitian Exchange Point

- 1999 first discussions
- 2002 RDDH Technical paper
 - Technical approach
 - Location (Boutilliers)
 - No implementation policy
 - No implementation cost, entry fees
- But for apparently no reason we couldn't make it happen

HAITIAN ISP's Market in 1999-2000

- The 1st Haitian ISP started operations in 1994
- 8 operational ISP's were competing
- Small market , mostly in Port-au-Prince, the capital and Cap Haitian the second city
- But, the regulator CONATEL (National Council of Telecommunications), say more than 12 licenses has been granted

Haitian ISP market today

- 3 Big ISP's
- 150 Mbps of incoming traffic/ 30 Mbps Outgoing
- 2 are competing for Residential market
- 1 has its niche in the corporate business
- Local interconnection between them
- Price very high 2000 USD for 1 Mb

An Important date

- October 28, 2007
- The so called Webout
- Because of the Hurricane Noel
- Tower has been destroyed in Dominican Republic
- All 3 biggest Haitian ISP's that have their upstream connection mainly from ISP in DR lost their connection to Internet for at least 36 hours
- The longest downtime lasted 6 days
- Use of backup Satellite, but no national communication

Interconnection

- This disaster revived the interconnection debates. More than ever it becomes a MUST
- 2 weeks later the 3 main ISP's started discussing on how to establish reciprocal backup in case service
- AHTIC (Haitian Association for the ICTs) seized the opportunity to lead the process to build the first Haitian Internet eXchange Point
- And brought the ISP's around the table with a multi stake-holder approach

IXP Vs Peering agreements

- November 2007 AHTIC created a Steering Committee
 - Common ground agreement
 - Technical papers
 - Policies and procedures

IXP Vs Peering agreement (cont)

- On the other hand in the early 2008 the main ISP's established the physical interconnection between them
- March 2008 ACCESS HAITI AND MULTILINK started to peer
- June 22, 2008 They experimented the backup procedure in a live scenario
- But administrative agreements are still missing

AHTIC role

- Very important
 - Policies
 - Implementation procedures
 - Protecting the rights of small ISP to be part of the IXP
- HAICOM a former radio communications offers its facilities to host the IXP
- Engineers from Oregon University will provide training and technical support for launching
- Tentative date January 2009

The invisible hand

- August 2008
 - Peering problem between ACCESS HAITI and MULTILINK SA
 - Fiber Link has been vandalized
 - 2 weeks later vandalized for the second time in less than 1 month

The invisible hand (cont)

- Since 2004 Telecommunications d'Haiti (TELECO) the historical operator signed a joint-venture contract with BATELCO Bahamas state ownership to lay a submarine fiber cable from Port-au-Prince to Nassau
- 4 years later it's remained commercially unexploited

The future of the Haitian Market

- The deadlock
 - 3 ISP with very limited cash flow
 - 2 Operators in the starting block (Digicel/Voila)
 - 1 historical operator with an asset (the submarine cable)
 - The regulator with some obsolete regulatory framework

AHTIC IXP Steering committee

- More help is still needed

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Merci !!!
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