IPTV Technologies and Deployment Challenges



Swarup Acharya Anurag Srivastava

(acharya@bell-labs.com)

(anurag1@bell-labs.com)

Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies Murray Hill, NJ, USA



Outline

What is IPTV?

Market Drivers

Triple Play/IPTV – A Quick Introduction

Technology Enablers

Network Transport Architectures

Challenges

Competitive Threat

IPTV Vendors and Service Provider Strategies

Conclusion



Cable MSOs

Formidable competitor

Huge customer base. Already offering digital TV, PPV, VoD, VoIP etc.

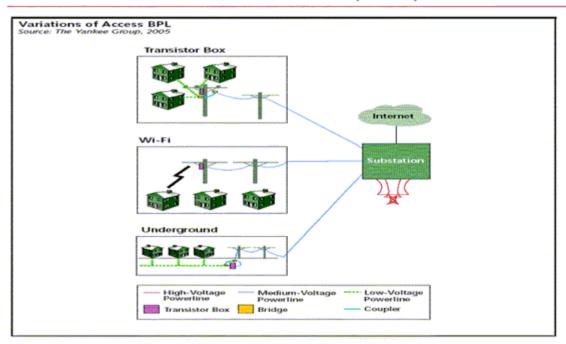
Business Challenge: Scalability issue for on-demand content. Analog TV channels consume precious 6MHz bandwidth

Upstream channel is limited in b/w

Cable operators plan to move to all digital infrastructure to counter IPTV threat

- CableLabs Next Generation Network Architecture (NGNA) initiative underway
 - Significantly higher capacity will allow higher data download speeds (DOCSIS 3.0), True on-demand TV service
- Combining Cable Modem, STB functionality, Home networking (802.11x), gaming into single Residential Gateway will offer economies of scale
 - Huge investment into the existing STBs (\$3-4B). Newer STBs will enter the market with gradual pace

Broadband over Powerline (BPL)



BPL (Contd.)

FCC's endorsement is increasing the awareness of technology

- Speed: Advertised speeds are up to 45 Mbps shared among multiple homes. Next generation technology capable of 200 Mbps.
- Shared bandwidth: Low-voltage line services approximately five to 10 houses in populated areas
- Distance-sensitive: Like DSL, BPL speeds lose momentum over distance. A signal can usually be carried between 0.5 mile and 1 mile. Problem in rural areas

Barrier:

- Interference
 - Most controversial element of the technology. Operation in 2-80Mhz spectrum interferes with ham radio operation
 - Vendors claim notching mitigates the problem
- Late to market
- Slow moving standard process