MIT Internet Telephony Consortium

The Goal:

- Bring folks from different industries and backgrounds together, to
- Remove barriers to growth of Internet telephony and multimedia business, by
- Developing unbiased and supportable information and technology, and
- Injecting it effectively, where it counts.

Areas

- Technical interpretation
- Economics and Business Models
- Gov't and Regulatory Policy

A Policy Question

- Internet Telephony is the crash point between two competing industries and cultures.
- Regulation is not dead.
  - Telecomm "Dereg" Act ->80 newFCC actions!
- What's going to happen?
  - Split IP and IPTel?
  - Bring the Internet into the framework?
  - Change the framework?
- Factual args phrased in FCC-speak needed

An Economic Question

- Some folks think IntTel (hmm) is great because it's "free". It's not.
  Some think it's black death. It's not.
- What's the truth?
  - Fundamentally better? <technical merit..>
  - Just different? <no billing..>
  - Regulatory history?
- What are the real costs of supporting it?
- Where can the money come from?

ITC and the IETF

- ITC not a technical standards organization.
- Most companies (inc telecomm) view IETF as the appropriate place for interoperability stds.
- ITC contributions to the IETF:
  - cross-industry technical understanding
    - people participating in WG's
  - warning flags about non-technical pitfalls.
  - Pre-IETF R&D in critical technical areas.
  - Short-term technical interoperability needs.

Who/When

May, 1996: 20 companies at exploratory meeting

July 1, 1996: initial "intended members"meeting

Expected industry participation @ July 1 meeting:
Vocaltec, Netscape, US Robotics, Mediatrix, Cable & Wireless, Lucent Technologies, Nokia, Telenor, Opencon Systems, Telia, <Large Asian Telecomm>

Discussions in progress:
Quarterdeck, White Pine, Netcentric, MCI, Nortel, Bell Canada

Academic participation - folks from:
MIT Research Program in Communications Policy (lead), MIT Lab for Computer Science, Kennedy School of Gov't, MIT Dept of Electrical Engineering