P2P Primer Ignites

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It's been an extremely dry spell to find something promising and I'll even say hopeful. Before we deploy, we test and play, document, discuss and test some more. We also play with configurations and costing of the related components and the overall effectiveness. Customers are as different and varied as are their needs and everyone has one common theme in mind- the bottom line.

In May, 2005, my friends at **Sprint** gave me a system to play with and in the short time we had it, we did see promise. Then, in July, they gave us another system from the same manufacturer and said "keep it for a month." The difference in a few months was substantial improvement delivered by way of software. Again, within weeks of bringing in our own system to our lab, a new release of software became available and the product took on a new shine.

Then, in August, we sold a system albeit small, to a customer that we felt fit just right. The deployment was more than easy and it's burned in by now, even though the install is a temporary one until the management company builds out the customers permanent offices.

(Turn Your Speakers Up) The **Aastra Venture IP Peer-to-Peer (P2P)** system is powered by **Nimcat Networks** whom was recently acquired by **Avaya**. It's important to get familiar with the nomenclature of P2P telephony because I believe it will kick off big time and in a big way. Another distributor friend of mine is already selling big orders of the **Aastra** SIP phones manufactured specifically for broadband deployments.

The Aastra gateway is also called the Thin Trunk Interface in Nimcat Networks language. The nimX is what I call the Nimcat Networks or I guess I should now say Avaya's "wheel of fortune."

The nimX consists of five modules:

Core modules for basic telephony functions;
SME modules for advanced telephony features for Small-Medium enterprise;
Mobility modules for remote and outside workers;
Computer Telephony Integration (CTI) modules for instant messaging, unified communications and personal assistants; and
Service Provider Modules for dialing instructions, routing, remote maintenance, and interoperability with other stations.

Aastra Technologies has worked behind the scenes for a long time and they are no stranger to voice. What I really like is their "systems" approach and experience in the business of manufacturing. Their phones are everywhere, just with different labels. Then, Aastra has employed Nimcat Networks which understands applications, and they do a great job of representing it with the wheel.

All things considered, the wheel represents "A Wheel of Fortune." Maybe Vanna White isn't spinning this one, but my guess is someone is going to be soon and I think Avaya is going in the right direction.

Pause and consider as it's been asked before: "What will we use voice for?" Again, reflect on Nimcat Networks' wheel of fortune.

SIP offers some key advantages for IP telephony:

Works well with other protocols by design
Interoperability allows easy binding of SIP to other protocols in applications
SIP is an adopted IETF standard **(RFC 3261)** and closely follows the client/server model SIP maximizes interoperability with Application Program Interfaces (APIs)

We are still gathering information, testing different configurations of gear- low end to high end and scrambling to learn more about this product. I've even engaged resources to learn more about this one small thingy called SIP.

Thus far, the customer is fine, phones are working and the trucks aren't rolling for service issues.

P2P telephony is more than hopeful and I feel like a kid in the candy store. More is sure to come on this later.

Matt Brunk is president of Telecomworx, an interconnect company based in Frederick County, MD. Matt is a frequent speaker at VoiceCon and regular contributor to* Business Communications Review *magazine

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