

SBE CHAPTER 70 - CLEVELAND/AKRON



S B E 7 0 M I N U T E S

Telos Alliance
1241 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Gather at 7:00pm
Meeting at 7:30pm

May 2015
Vol. XXIII Number 4

May 12 Meeting Info

Hello all Chapter 70 members and friends! First up big thanks to Gary Zocolo and his crew at Radio One, if you didn't get to see their first class facility this time around stay tuned for another program there in the future.

Our next meeting on Tuesday May 12th is back at our home base, the Telos Alliance HQ, 1241 Superior Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114. The program will be an NAB recap of all the cool new gear the Alliance debuted last month, including the 'Talk of Vegas' 25-Seven Systems Voltair unit. Plus many more from the Omnia group starting with their Omnia 7 processor, the VOCO 8 mic processor, and Omnia SG9 stereo generator. Linear Acoustic had their MT-2000 bitstream analyzer, Aero-soft software based TV processor, and SDI X-node. On the Telos side they showed the Zephyr I-port Plus multi-channel IP codec and updates to the Z/IP Stream family of web coders. As you can see we'll have plenty to see and talk about. Usual times apply, gather at 7pm with our meeting at 7:30 and the program to follow that.

Blake Thompson CBNT
Director of Engineering
WZIP-FM / ZTV www.wzip.fm
The University of Akron
SBE Chapter 70 Program Chairman



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by John Hovanec

I'd like to thank Gary Zocolo for hosting our March meeting at the Radio One Studios on Carnegie Ave on March 10, our last Chapter Meeting. Gary and his former assistant, Ben Slagle, did a great job of moving the studio complex from their St. Clair location to the Carnegie facility. It is nice to see what can be done when you have the ability to start with a 'clean slate' and put a facility together. In case you're wondering, Gary's assistant, Ben, has moved to become the Regional CE for the Youngstown/ Western PA Cumulus Radio market. He has filled the void left by retiring Wes Boyd, a prominent fixture to the region and former SBE Chapter 122 Chairman. Our congrats to Ben... and to Wes for finally being able to hang up the cell phone if he so wishes.

It seems one of our 'locals', Cornelius Gould, of the Telos Alliance, made the trade headlines with his presentation on "Process Smarter, Not Harder for Today's Ratings Wars", in Las Vegas, at the NAB in April. Seems what happens in Vegas, does not necessarily stay in Vegas, as there is a lot of industry 'buzz' going on around

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(Chairman's Chat - continued from page 1)

the intersection of watermark encoding and broadcast audio processing. Much of the cutting edge audio processing technology, as it relates to this, is being explored locally by the Telos Alliance. I won't speak for Corny, but he may be able to share some of the research that he is working on, as well as touch on points made at his NAB Presentation.

I was reminded that it is that time of the year that we are taking nominations for the SBE Chapter 70's 'Broadcast Engineer of the Year'. We can discuss and nominate individuals from our Chapter at the upcoming meeting. There are other categories that we can also submit entries on to the SBE, such as 'Conference of The Year' (the Ohio Broadcast Engineering Conference comes to mind). We will discuss this, as well as other details, at our meeting.

And, finally, I got on a 'roll' and put together a little article regarding telephone service and ISDN as it relates to broadcasters. It's in this newsletter on page 3. My inspiration is a recent story posted at the SBE website on the subject, which I've referenced. Much of it you may already be aware of, but it is provided as something to think about, if you have not already.

-John Hovanec, CSRE/CBNT, DRB, AMD
SBE 70 Chapter Chairman



[Click here to watch video of SBE at the NAB SHOW](#)

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PLANNING FOR ELIMINATION OF LEGACY TELEPHONE SERVICES

As many of you are aware, there is an industry trend to eliminate traditional land line phone, ISDN, and even PRI service by providers such as Verizon and AT&T. While I cannot cite or even find an official notice, we have been told by representatives of AT&T that there is a ‘sunset’ date in 2019 for ISDN and PRI service. They further elaborated that the last date to order any new ISDN or PRI service, at least locally, is June 30, 2015. That’s less than 2 months from now.

Until VoIP technology took hold, PRI’s were the backbone utilized for multiple telephone line service, such as used with Business Class Telephone Systems, and are still well-used. Many also use PRI’s for multiple-line ISDN service, so the thought of migrating from ISDN to PRI to retain ISDN service at a broadcast facility, for example, would be a temporary solution at best.

Also in the mix is the elimination of POTS lines - the good ‘ole “Plain Old Telephone Service” that delivers the dial tone and communication link from the Central Office via a copper pair. While there is no formal ‘sunset’ date on this service that I am aware of, it is being phased out nonetheless. The work around that is being phased in, for those desiring a dial tone line, is attachment of an Analog Terminal Adapter, or ATA. This device basically converts the analog telephone features we are accustomed with to VoIP, which in turn connects to the Provider’s service. AT&T specifies a guaranteed modem rate and compatibility with FAX machines. So far, so good, and all sounds great in theory. But, in the real world, the specified bandwidth may be maximum, not minimum guaranteed, and the codec employed can cause issues with data that has traditionally worked with POTS lines. While you can point to technology advancing to where FAX is becoming obsolete with the advent of email, and argue that no one uses a modems on POTS lines anymore, think again.

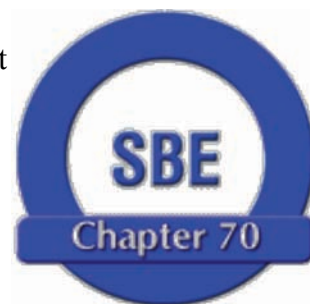
Currently POTS lines serve as one of the most significant means to provide Closed Captioning Data Service across the United States. Since closed captioning is an FCC compliance issue for Television Broadcasters, compromise of the POTS method of delivery has a direct impact. To quote an article to the SBE from the National Court Reporters Association “The station as well as the caption provider may not realize data compression within the telephone system is causing garbled captions or intermittent phone drops. While captioners are able to receive audio through VoIP, transmitting captions through VoIP presents significant problems and results in garbled and incorrect captions.”

Fortunately, there are things that can be done proactively to migrate from POTS delivery to something more data-friendly, primarily with IP Based delivery systems utilizing a static IP address. You can read the full article regarding this at: http://www.sbe.org/sections/news/ncra_pots.php

Now... for those of you utilizing some of the latest and greatest audio codecs that sound reasonably good when using a POTS line –you should investigate if you are truly connected to a ‘copper pair’ POTS line, and not an ATA, assuming you have a choice. That will be a story for another article.

The take away from all of this is while advancement of technology is a good thing, the elimination of legacy services, for which a suitable alternative has yet to be considered or devised, is a challenge to us all. We need to stay abreast of the latest technology and trends, and continue to adapt to newer technology where feasible. Being proactive is the name of the game, so as not to be blind-sided when the elimination of legacy service occurs. Keeping up on the latest trends through industry publications and articles, such as provided by the SBE, is one way to stay ahead of the curve.

-John Hovanec



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SBE 2015 Certification Exam Schedule



Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
February 6-16	Local Chapters	Past Date
April 14	NAB Convention	Past Date
June 5-15	Local Chapters	Past Date
August 7-17	Local Chapters	June 5, 2015
November 6-16	Local Chapters	October 2, 2015

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The advertisement features a dark background with a grid of small, glowing circles. In the foreground, several pieces of audio equipment are displayed, including a Telos Omnia console, an AXIA console, and a Telos Alliance console. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout, with the company name and contact information prominently displayed.

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MARCH MEETING AT RADIO ONE



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