HotLINX Issue 15
The London Internet Exchange Membership Magazine

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Spacial Awareness
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HotLINX has been keeping the LINX membership and other industry professionals informed on events at the exchange for the past eight years. This 15th edition has been radically redesigned and revamped with even more great content for its first ever 12 page edition.

With these changes we have decided to take a look back at some of the stories from that first issue and see the progression in the design of the publication over the years. The inaugural edition of HotLINX was launched in the summer of 2000 featuring topics on the Internet Watch Foundation, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Bill, Multicast, ICANN, the Anti-Spam Directive and budget planning discussions at LINX30. With the 62nd member meeting now upon us, LINX has clearly come a long way since then.

Interestingly there was also a double page spread on colocation facilities, a subject that will always be of interest to LINX members, as this latest issue will demonstrate. Turn to our centre pages to find out more.

Another curious quirk is that in issue one we welcomed a new member of staff with Martyn Ranger employed as Support Co-ordinator. A quick flick to the back page will see that we are welcoming him for a second time following his appointment as Service Delivery Engineer!

HotLINX now has a circulation of around 1000 copies. Each issue is also expected to be downloaded a further 500 times from the LINX website, for the three months following publication.

If you wish to make a submission for the next issue of HotLINX (November 2008), please email: hotlinx@linx.net. You can also use this address if you would like to request any additions to the HotLINX mailing list.

Jeremy Orbell, HotLINX Editor

Download earlier editions of HotLINX at: www.linx.net/publicity/hotlinx.html
Meet with LINX

Events to be Attended by LINX Representatives

As you would expect of a major player in the global Internet industry, LINX regularly attends important industry events around the world. Please take a look at the list below to see where you can meet with LINX staff and representatives over the remainder of the year:

**LINX62**
18/19 August 2008
London, United Kingdom
Attended by: LINX staff & Board
[www.linx.net/members/events/meetings/L62/LINX62.html](http://www.linx.net/members/events/meetings/L62/LINX62.html)
(Member log-in required)

**EPF3**
15/16 September 2008
Dublin, Republic of Ireland
Attended by: John Souter, Richard Yule, Jennifer Atherton, Mike Hughes, Malcolm Hutty and the LINX Board
[www.peering-forum.eu](http://www.peering-forum.eu)

**NANOG44**
12-14 October 2008
Los Angeles, USA
Attended by: Mike Hughes, Richard Yule
[www.nanog.org](http://www.nanog.org)

**RIPE57**
26-30 October 2008
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Attended by: John Souter, Richard Yule, Jennifer Atherton, Mike Hughes, Malcolm Hutty, Renald Giroux
[www.ripe.net/ripe/meetings/ripe-57/index.html](http://www.ripe.net/ripe/meetings/ripe-57/index.html)

**ICANN**
3-7 November 2008
Cairo, Egypt
Attended by: Malcolm Hutty
[public.icann.org/cai](http://public.icann.org/cai)

**LINX63**
17/18 November 2008
London, United Kingdom
Attended by: LINX staff & Board
[www.linx.net/members/events/meetings/L63/LINX63.html](http://www.linx.net/members/events/meetings/L63/LINX63.html)
(Web page will be available in October)

**Internet Governance Forum**
8-13 December 2008
Delhi, India
Attended by: Malcolm Hutty
[internetgovernance.org/events.html](http://internetgovernance.org/events.html)

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**Italian Peering Forum**
A Great Success!

The inaugural Peering Forum Italiano was held in Pisa during May. Learn more about the PFI at: [www.peeringforum.it](http://www.peeringforum.it)

On 27th of May the Italian city of Pisa saw the first edition of the Italian Peering Forum. This event was the result of the common organizing efforts of Italian exchanges MIX, NaMex, TIX and TOP-IX and was sponsored by Foundry Networks with the support of the host, the Institute IIT of the National Research Center of Pisa.

It was a very successful meeting, chaired by Enzo Valente (GARR Director) with respected keynote speakers including Silvano Gai (Nuova Systex/Cisco) and Geoff Huston (APNIC). It was an eagerly anticipated event attended by 150 members of the Italian and the International Internet community.

The main goal of the Forum has been the promotion of an ITNOG, a permanent Forum similar to other Network Operators Groups’ around the world (such as NANOG), which aims to improve the quality and the reliability of the Internet in Italy.

Daniele Arena of NaMeX had this to say on the event:

"The Forum was a great success. For the first time, the four major Italian IXPs joined their efforts to organize an event where all ISPs operating in Italy were invited. The attendance was well beyond expectations and has been the spark for a future Italian Network Operators’ Group, which is now in the works."

Daniele Arena, NaMeX

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**Peering Forum+**
An overview of two future peering forum events

**European Peering Forum 3**
15-16 September 2008
LINX, AMS-IX, DE-CIX are hosting the third European Peering Forum on 15 and 16 September 2008 in Dublin, Ireland. Sponsors for EPF3 include Equinix, Force10 and euNetworks.

The event will bring together over 150 individuals from the respective IX member organisations that have an interest in not only negotiating, but also the operational aspects of peering.

In addition there will be a pre-event social on the Sunday evening before the event, while on Monday evening there is the gala dinner. This will take place at Trinity College at the University of Dublin, and will provide attendees with the ideal opportunity to socialise with their peers.

Please visit [www.peering-forum.eu](http://www.peering-forum.eu) for a comprehensive overview of EPF3.

**Global Peering Forum 3.5**
14 October 2008
GPF3.5 is an informal social event held during NANOG44 in Los Angeles featuring a keynote speaker and structured networking for attendees. This will be held between 8.00pm and 11.00pm at the Elevate Lounge and Takaki Sushi & Robata Restaurant.

Please visit [www.peeringforum.com](http://www.peeringforum.com) for more information on GPF events and activities.
More New Connections, Ports and Territories, for LINX Sales Team

Since our previous issue, LINX membership has seen its fastest ever rate of growth with a total of 22 applications received over the last quarter. These include:

- 3 New countries with members from: Kuwait, Czech Republic, Cyprus
- 3 more German members: EuroTransit, Kabel Deutschland and Netdirekt
- 2 significant content networks: Giganews and Panther Express
- 2 DNS companies - Afilias and OpenDNS (see page 5)
- …and the first European Peering presence for Facebook

We’ve been sending these applicants through to our engineers at an ever increasing rate. Therefore, we’re very pleased to have Gary and Martyn join the team, (see back page), to help ensure for a rapid connection process.

Along with the stream of new connections, our existing members have been expanding their networks, with LINX now providing over 600 Ethernet ports to them.

There’s no chance of a quiet time in the months to come either with LINX’s largest ever PoP expansion and the European Peering Forum keeping us busy.

Isle Of Man Hosts Latest LINX Outreach Day

The second LINX Outreach Day, held on 3 July in Onchan, Isle Of Man, saw representatives from six members attend along with other leading names from the island’s ISP industry. The latest meeting followed a successful similar event held in Sheffield earlier in the year (see HotLINX14).

The concept for the LINX Outreach Day was born out of the practicalities of some members being unable to attend the main member meetings held in London every quarter.

The format of the day included drinks and an informal lunch which gave the attendees the opportunity to meet and discuss networking issues. This was followed by LINX business updates from LINX CTO, Mike Hughes, and Business Development Executive, Jennifer Atherton.

Comment

“We were delighted at the turn out and are already looking at possible venues for future events. We would also like to extend our thanks to Gary Hill of Pokerstars for his assistance in arranging this event”

Jennifer Atherton,
LINX Business Development

New Members

For the Period
May - August 2008

Below is a list of new members connected since the May issue of HotLINX. It is an ever growing list which includes a number of new territories thus expanding the global reach of the LINX network ever wider.

- Afilias
  Republic of Ireland
  www.afilias.info
- Andrews and Arnold
  United Kingdom
  www.aaisp.net.uk
- Ask4
  United Kingdom
  www.ask4.com
- Bytel
  United Kingdom
  www.bytel.net.uk
- Dial Telecom
  Czech Republic
  www.dialtelecom.cz
- E4A
  Italy
  www.e4a.it
- Facebook
  USA
  www.facebook.com
- Giganews
  USA
  www.giganews.com
- Kabel Deutschland
  Germany
  www.kabeldeutschland.com
- KDDI
  Japan
  www.eu.kddi.com
- Node4
  United Kingdom
  www.node4.co.uk
- OpenDNS
  USA
  www.opendns.com
- Rational Services
  Germany
  www.pokerstars.com
- T-Mobile
  UK
  www.t-mobile.co.uk
- TransWorld IX
  USA
  www.transworldix.net
- Websense
  United Kingdom
  www.websense.com
OpenDNS

‘Pleased to be at LINX’
By Allison Rhodes

OpenDNS - the world’s largest and fastest-growing DNS service - is very happy to announce we are now a part of the LINX family and are peering on both peering fabrics.

LINX was chosen as our first major European IX to peer at because of its size and breadth of membership networks from around the world. By connecting to LINX we are now able to deliver our feature-rich, secure DNS services to our customers faster and more reliably than ever before. We are currently peering with the LINX route servers and actively engaging bilateral peering relationships with individual networks.

To date OpenDNS has experienced total satisfaction with LINX’s services, as we’ve had not a single problem with our LINX connectivity. Customer support has been nothing short of excellent and we feel LINX’s mission of working for the ‘good of the Internet’ is directly aligned with OpenDNS’s aim of making the Internet experience better for people around the world.

Our DNS services are used by millions of individuals globally who are looking for a more reliable DNS service that offers advanced features not found in any existing DNS implementation. Amongst the benefits are individual domain blocking (and whitelisting) along with the ability to block over 50 categories of domains including adult-related sites, social networking and video sharing websites. Additionally, OpenDNS provides IT administrators with stats and reports to help them better understand the DNS trends on their network while eliminating their need to run recursive DNS services internally.

For more information on OpenDNS please visit: www.opendns.com

Blue Square:MK
New Data Centre for Milton Keynes

Work is well advanced and on schedule for the October 2008 opening of a new flagship facility for Blue Square Data Group, the carrier-neutral data centre specialist.

Blue Square:MK occupies a two acre site in the Linford Wood area of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, and will initially provide up to 25,000 square feet of purpose-built, high security accommodation and N+N redundancy level.

The company, which already operates three sites in Maidenhead, Berkshire, chose Milton Keynes for its strategic central location and established infrastructure of data routes to all parts of the United Kingdom.

The site includes a total of 4500kVA dual substations, generator back-ups, and multiple dark fibre providers offering a wide choice in connectivity.

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For more information on OpenDNS please visit: www.opendns.com

Second Data Centre Facility in Manchester for UK Grid

UK Grid has recently opened its second data centre in Manchester, Synergy House. The 7000sqft tier 2 facility opened in Q1 2008, and has already seen high demand for space as most of the other similar facilities in Manchester are now full.

The facility has fully redundant power and cooling with full fire detection and suppression and a total floor space for 300 racks. With dual and fully diverse fibre paths, tier 1 providers including Cogent Communications have already colocated in the facility and there are more announcements being made soon of further carriers.

For further information on UK Grid and its services please go to: www.ukgrid.net
AboveNet Extends its Fibre Network Reach to Connect Powergate and City Data Centres

Leading fibre optic connectivity solutions provider, AboveNet, has recently completed provisioning fibre to connect to TelecityGroup’s new data centre facility Powergate. Additionally, AboveNet has also completed connecting one of London’s most established data centres in EC1, located off City Road.

As the first network operator to connect to TelecityGroup’s Powergate, AboveNet is enabling customers to take advantage of connectivity solutions including dark fibre, tier1 IP Transit and a full range of managed wavelength services, with availability to this new site today. Committed to providing extensive connectivity choice, AboveNet has also recently completed its network extension to a City data centre located off City Road.

AboveNet has constructed out to both facilities using its own in-house construction and splicing teams, ensuring that the extensions have been completed to the same high quality standards as the rest of the network. With this diverse connectivity to the Powergate and EC1 data centres now available, AboveNet customers are provided with even more on-net locations where their services can be delivered.

Agreements Signed for New LINX PoPs at Equinix, Interxion and TelecityGroup

Following the selection of the three potential new LINX sites, Heads of Agreement were signed with each of the providers early in the spring. Subsequently, Raza Rizvi, a LINX board member not currently associated with a LINX member, was asked to project manage the deployment.

While conducting the conversion of the Heads of Agreement into legal agreements, Raza also worked with Mike Hughes to design the new network extension topology. Once this had been completed, a number of carriers were approached to find a set of routes that would not impinge on the resilience of the existing network. From this work, Geo were selected as the chosen single carrier and this was announced to the membership at LINX 61 in May.

Legal work continued feverishly until the end of July, but all the allocation providers now have a legal agreement with LINX on which both hope to prosper by bringing new member connections to the existing membership.

It is hoped to have the first site, Interxion, ready for service by the end of August, with Equinix and TelecityGroup following in the next few months.

Raza Rizvi
LINX PoPs
Project Co-Ordinator

Geo
LINX Strengthens Peering Network with Geo Fibre

Geo, a leading provider of dedicated fibre networks, will be providing LINX with a diverse dedicated fibre ring between four strategic London data centres. These connections will enable LINX to provide its members with greater capacity and an increased network reach.

LINX has in excess of 280 members including many leading telcos and large content providers who exchange traffic through peering. Geo was selected by LINX to create a dedicated fibre ring within London encompassing Equinix Slough, TelecityGroup Powergate, and Interxion. This provides LINX members with the opportunity to plan the development of their London networks more effectively using connections with capacity ranging from 100Mb/s – 10Gb/s.

LINX chose to work with Geo on this project because of the diversity and security of the routes they provided, parts of which utilise Geo’s metro network, which runs through the London sewers. LINX were also drawn to their availability at all of its required sites and the highly effective and competitively priced solution offered by Geo.

Geo is delighted to be able to provide exceptional value to LINX and its members with its dedicated fibre solution,” said Chris Smedley, Chief Executive, Geo. “The new connections will not only allow existing members to build and expand their networks in London, but will facilitate new entrants into the market and encourage new members to benefit from excellent peering connectivity.”

To learn more about AboveNet and its recent network expansion please visit www.above.net, email enquiries@above.net or call: +44 (0)20 7220 3822

www.geo-uk.net

Comment

“With our commitment to staying ahead of industry trends and investing in the future of our network, we are extremely pleased to have expanded our fibre network reach out to London’s newest data centre, TelecityGroup’s Powergate, and to a key datacentre in EC1,” said AboveNet’s managing director, John Donaldson. “This connectivity serves to highlight AboveNet’s commitment to offering our customers the most comprehensive range of networking solutions to support current and future business requirements.”
**Equinix**

**Peering into the Future at Equinix London-4 Data Centre**

Equinix is delighted that LINX will extend its peering fabric into Equinix’s London-4 data centre in Slough as part of a strategic expansion of the LINX network. The partnership will provide Equinix customers with vital peering opportunities and bring additional premium colocation capacity to LINX members.

The next generation data centre is purpose designed utilising the most advanced infrastructure for industry leading resilience and operational efficiency. The site offers 10,000m² of space with 24 megawatts of power, providing LINX members with access to superior colocation capacity for high density installations.

The site offers a neutral exchange environment where customers can interconnect through the LINX switch fabric quickly, inexpensively and securely.

Situated in a convenient, fibre rich location on the outskirts of London, Equinix has the capacity to scale power and space in this area. With a pro-active data centre investment strategy combined with strategic capacity planning, Equinix provides scalability and expansion potential to LINX members.

Equinix is the peering leader in the US, serving the world’s leading ISPs, broadband providers, international networks, content delivery networks and major content providers including Yahoo!, Google, British Telecom, eBay, and others.

**Exclusive Offer & Invitation**

All LINX members connecting to the Exchange in the Equinix London-4 data centre during 2008 will receive the first three months colocation free of charge (up to a maximum of three racks). All normal Equinix and LINX membership, install and port charges apply.

Join us to celebrate this partnership at a party in London on the 20 August! Email linx@eu.equinix.com for further information.

**Comment**

“We are happy to partner with Equinix and allow our members to interconnect with the aggregation of customers operating at Equinix data centres. I believe that this relationship will ensure the most efficient and reliable exchange of data between some of the largest networks in the world,” comments LINX CEO, John Souter.

“We are well placed to develop our business and serve the world,” comments LINX CEO, John Souter.

**Interxion**

**Interxion and LINX partnership facilitates discounted rates**

Interxion is pleased to announce a new Point of Presence for the London Internet Exchange (LINX) in its London City data centre. The PoP allows Interxion’s customers and prospects the potential of peering directly with LINX’s extensive member base.

LINX CEO, John Souter, and MD of Interxion (UK), Greg McCulloch, shake hands following the historical partnership agreement.

In April of this year Interxion added 1,250 m² of equipped space to its London City data centre. The data centre can provide 2.5kW per cabinet and 5kW per cabinet with 2N redundancy and free air-cooling as standard, as well as the most advanced alarm and monitoring systems. The site is supplied with 13 Megawatts of power and allows it to meet more advanced high power density configurations when required.

Interxion is a leading European provider of carrier-neutral data centres. Headquartered in Schiphol-Rijk, The Netherlands, Intersxion serves over 1,000 customers from its 23 carrier-neutral data centres located in 13 cities across 11 European countries. Interxion serves network and carrier-based, hosting and enterprise customers who require professionally managed and strictly controlled physical environments within which to operate mission-critical applications and computer systems.

Interxion’s carrier-neutral data centres offer cost-effective and fast access to multiple local and global communication networks. Please contact Gary McLaughlin on Tel 00 44 207 375 7000 or at garym@interxion.com to discuss your specific requirements.

Find out more at www.interxion.com

**Special Offer**

With the new LINX PoP scheduled to go live in late August at the London City site, the partnership will help realize the shortage of premium colocation space available for LINX members in London. Customers signing up in the first six months of operation will also have the fees associated with installation and cabling between LINX and the customer rack waived.

**TeleclyGroup**

**New London Data Centre at the Powergate Business Park**

TeleclyGroup’s Powergate data centre, the first to open in central London for several years, is at the forefront of data centre innovation. It will offer approximately 5,000 square metres and 10 megawatts (MW) of customer capacity. The new data centre has been designed to provide 4 kilowatts (kW) of customer power per rack as standard, more than twice the current industry average, with high powered zones offering up to 20 kW per rack.

Major telecoms and network service providers are present in Powergate, and the data centre is also linked to TeleclyGroup European data centres (and associated connectivity available in these sites) via a dedicated fibre network.

**Comment**

“As the demand for online content and services continues to grow exponentially, investment in critical infrastructure is vital if we’re to keep London at the very heart of the global Internet economy. TeleclyGroup and LINX have worked together very successfully over many years and are once again leading the way by delivering new capacity and connectivity where it is most needed to provide new opportunities for growth,” comments Adrian Oosthoek, Managing Director, TeleclyGroup UK and Ireland.

“Our investment in the new site demonstrates our commitment to providing customers with the highly secure space, facilities and connected environment they require to support the growth in their business. It is also an important step in keeping London at the very forefront of the global internet market. We look forward to the LINX expanding its point of presence in the new Powergate data centre to service its members’ growth requirements in the future.”

**LINX Member offer**

To celebrate the opening of the new Powergate facility and LINX presence at the data centre, TeleclyGroup is offering a unique early-bird offer exclusive to LINX members. For a strictly limited period* the following packages are available to LINX members only:

**NO SET UP FEES**

4kW rack = £1,665 per month
3kW rack = £1,260 per month
2kW rack = £832.50 per month

All prices include power and cross connect to the LINX infrastructure onsite.

*Offer valid until 31st December 2008. Terms and conditions apply.
The LINX62 meeting will be held on 18/19 August at the Goodenough College in London. Proceedings will commence at 14.00 on the Monday with a review of the agenda and the minutes of the previous LINX61 meeting. Issues regarding outstanding actions will be addressed plus an introduction to the meeting sponsors, F5 Networks, Interxion, euNetworks and Geo.

The first session will see Paul Risk of F5 give an intriguingly titled presentation, “The load-balancer is dead, long live application delivery!” This will be followed by a quarterly update from LINX CEO, John Souter and a series of lightning talks from LINX members. John will also present news on the current colocation situation regarding the new LINX PoPs which will be followed by a panel session on data centre disasters hosted by Dan Lowe. The topic of Uptime metrics at LINX/L2 port security will be also be covered and will be presented by LINX CTO, Mike Hughes. The afternoon will close with a Board feedback session.

Day two will begin at 10.00 with Richard Yule reporting on the LINX Sales & Marketing position before a brief RIPE policy update from Nigel Titley. The remainder of the morning program will see Barry Rhodes of guest IXP, INEX (Dublin) and Malcolm Hutty, Head of LINX Public Affairs, both make presentations. In the afternoon Mike Hughes will provide his usual Engineering update while Becky Hogge with speak on behalf of the Open Rights Group. Sascha Wilms will cover the ECO whitelist project before a sponsor-fronted interactive session will conclude events at LINX62.

LINX61 AGM One of the Best Attended Meetings Ever

The May LINX61 AGM meeting was one of the best attended meetings ever with over 100 on day one and a record 81 on day two. In addition to the usual updates on engineering, public affairs and sales and marketing, there were presentations on Phorm, Nominet, nPlusOne VoIP and the LINX MoU. In the AGM session those present witnessed LINX Chairman, Grahame Davies of Lumison, and Steve Wilcox of Google re-elected to the Board for another three years.

LINX CTO, Mike Hughes, (above) addresses LINX61 attendees during his Engineering update.

Tim Clarke of The Cloud (top right) poses a question to the stage as does Andrew Bangs of Thus plc (right).
Linx61: One-Stop Voice Solutions for ISPs Now from DigitalK

Finding ways to increase both revenues and customer loyalty has always been the big challenge for ISPs. Until recently though, ISPs found it difficult to compete directly with other types of communications service providers when it came to the most vital element of any service bundle – voice.

While many traditional telecoms operators are now re-examining their own voice and data service strategies, ISPs themselves also have a window of opportunity to increase the richness and profitability of their offerings by adding advanced voice services – and at a fraction of the cost historically involved.

Over 400 service providers around the world currently use DigitalK platforms and packages to create, deliver and manage a wide range of voice and data services and applications to their customers. With DigitalK support, an ISP can easily and rapidly enter the voice services market, offering residential or business Voice over Broadband Services to private and white label customers – or move directly to providing hosted services like virtual offices with full interaction with SS7 or VoIP based fixed and mobile networks.

Platforms are engineered to provide high reliability, high quality, easily scalable solutions with full support for SIP across different features, functions and applications, giving ISPs the opportunity to start developing from day one the truly rich, interactive services that will allow them to compete on a truly level playing field.

If you would like to know more about DigitalK or voice solutions for ISPs, please go to: www.digitalk.com

Meeting Sponsorship

Linx61 Gold Sponsors Telecity Group have a long association with the LINX member meetings. Felicia Adeleye and Scotty Cornge were both on hand to discuss the opening of Powergate, their new Telecity Group data centre.

Linx61 was a great platform for introducing LINX members to the new facility and unveiling our LINX member offer:

www.telecitygroup.co.uk/linxmemberoffer

e-Crime

Building on its relationship with the new Policing Central e-Crime Unit (PceU), which has chosen to host its information portal in one of the company’s data centres, Telecity Group handed its presentation slot over to Howard Shaw of the PceU Project Team, to talk about the new unit. Howard gave members an outline of what the new e-crime unit is going to look like, the services it will offer and how it intends to fight cyber crime in the UK.

Comment

“We were glad to introduce PceU to LINX members,” said Helen Barnes. “The new unit is going to provide a central point of contact for reporting e-crime, with the website acting as a portal providing information on the latest threats. Computer crime, in whatever form it takes, can be extremely damaging to businesses, and PceU will therefore provide an invaluable service to all users and providers of network services.”

Linx61: Telecity Group Go For Gold Sponsorship

Telecity Group has just opened its new Powergate data centre in Central London, which demonstrates the company’s commitment to providing customers with the highly secure space, facilities, services and connected environment they require to support the growth in their business requirements. It is also an important step in keeping London at the forefront of the global internet market.

Comment

“Spending time with LINX members is important for us. Many members are Telecity Group customers, so these meetings are another important opportunity for us to understand the challenges they face and help us to adapt our business thinking accordingly. It’s also a good opportunity to talk about how we can help facilitate the development of LINX members’ business now and in the future.” - Helen Barnes, Telecity Group
Tackling P2P: Self-Regulation, Legislation and Fines

The Department for Business (BERR) has announced it prefers a “co-regulatory” rather than purely self-regulatory approach to tackling copyright infringement through peer-to-peer filesharing, and is consulting on legislative options. Meanwhile the Patent Office plans to raise the maximum fine that Magistrates’ Courts can hand down for online copyright infringement from £5,000 to £50,000.

BERR’s preferred plan starts with an industry Code of Practice, and requires the regulator to develop “effective mechanisms to deal with repeat infringers”. BERR’s consultation launched with a Memorandum of Understanding committing signatory ISPs to a trial whereby they would each send 1,000 warnings to customers per week over a period of three months; the unlucky customers would be selected by music rights holders on an accusation that their accounts had been used for illicit uploading or downloading. Six broadband ISPs (BSkyB, BT, Carphone Warehouse, Orange, Tiscali and Virgin Media) have agreed to this trial.

The signatory ISPs will also be invited to talks hosted by Ofcom to “identify mechanisms to deal with repeat infringers”. Traffic management and filtering and content watermarking are among the ideas that will be considered.

BERR is also consulting on approaches that require legislation. These include granting to rightsholders streamlined access to customer records without a court order; creating a legal duty for ISPs to “take action” against users identified by rightsholders; creating a new regulatory body to decide complaints (as in the French Olivennes plan); and traffic filtering. These options are described as “less preferred”, but available if the co-regulatory option is not successful in protecting music industry interests.

In Brief

The Latest Stories on the LINX Public Affairs Website

This column features the latest news in the world of Public Affairs. Please visit: www.publicaffairs.linx.net/news to read these stories, and others, in full.

BERT to advise European Commission

Europe, Regulatory Framework

MEPs in the European Parliament are currently discussing a paper that questions the need to set up a new European Market Authority. Instead of a new Market Authority, the paper proposes setting up a consultative body consisting exclusively of NRAs. It stresses that such a body of European Regulators in Telecom (BERT) could take on many of the functions that the Commission’s draft proposal has assigned to the Authority; without taking on the nature of an agency and thus avoiding some of the potential problems (bureaucracy, subsidiarity etc.).

The paper also makes clear that ENISA would not be included in BERT. With regard to spectrum management, the paper proposes that the Radio Spectrum Policy Group and the Radio Spectrum Committee should continue to perform their tasks.

Communications Data Bill

Data Retention, RIPA - Access

The government announced in May plans for a new Communications Data Bill.

The purpose of the Bill is to: allow communications data capabilities for the prevention and detection of crime and protection of national security to keep up with changing technology through providing for the collection and retention of such data, including data not required for the business purposes of communications service providers; and to ensure strict safeguards continue to strike the proper balance between privacy and protecting the public.

Main Bill Elements

- Modify the procedures for acquiring communications data and allow this data to be retained
- Transpose EU Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of communications data into UK law

OECD Ministerial Declaration

Internet Governance

The OECD Ministerial meeting in June culminated in “The Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy” document. Most of this could reasonably be considered worthy and uncontroversial, to the point where some might consider it bland, but it’s still useful to have high-level political recognition of the importance of an open, innovative Internet.

Visit the www.publicaffairs.linx.net website to download a PDF copy of this document.

Astroturfing made illegal

Content issues, Consumer Rights

Commercial blogs that masquerade as consumer comment have been outlawed by the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. “Astroturf” (fake grassroots blogs) and “sock puppetry” (posting similar comments under multiple apparent identities to give the appearance an unwarranted appearance of popular endorsement) are among the unfair practices the directive prohibits.

Please visit: www.publicaffairs.linx.net/news to read these stories, and many others, in full.
LINX made a big splash at the 10th annual Peterborough Dragon Boat Festival back in June. The event, which was staged on the city’s River Nene, saw a record 52 teams take part in a total of 43 races throughout the day. In what were sunny yet blustery conditions, LINX won two of their three heats and finished second in the other behind the eventual fourth placed team. Unfortunately the combined times were not enough to make the semi-finals but still gave the team a creditable 26th place finish overall.

Plans are already ongoing to field a crew in next years’ event. Web: www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk

Gary King
Network Engineer
The LINX Engineering team has been strengthened by the appointment of Gary King as a Network Engineer. He began his career at Plessey Military Communications before embarking on his first data communications positions at Gandalf Communications and Datarange.

Gary told us: “After leaving Datarange I became a freelance contractor involved exclusively with Bay Network and Nortel kit. Some of the contracts I worked on included Deutsche Morn Grenfell, BP Oil and Coca-Cola in Brussels helping install and support their European WAN network. I also operated out of Milan for a while for Nortel Networks supporting the ISP, Planetworks.”

Gary then returned to the UK to take up network engineering roles with Sprint and Cogent Communications before joining LINX in May.

Martyn Ranger
Service Delivery Engineer
Martyn Ranger is no stranger to LINX. In fact, a look back to the first ever edition of HotLINX from the year 2000, will show that this is not the first time he has been on the payroll! Martyn initially spent 18 months with LINX before undertaking a similar role with the organisation, XchangePoint. After a spell outside the IT sector operating in the packaging industry, Martyn become a Data Centre Engineer at Savvis.

“Last season, despite being rookies in the local Peterborough League, Vydis finished runners-up only losing in the finals by two points after extra time. They are a rapidly developing club who are targeting national league status next year. Attendences for Vydis matches are growing fast and are expected to top 100 for some games. It is a great sport for the whole family, which is something the club is actively trying to promote.

Paul is in talks with local media to promote the club and the sport generally as he hopes to attract a wider audience for his team. To help make sure the team continues to progress, Vydis are looking for new sponsors. Can you help? www.vydis.org.uk/basketball

From Lithuania to Peterborough in Search of Basketball Glory!
Paul Daukus, LINX Data Systems Designer and Administrator, has high hopes for the coming year as he aims to guide his basketball club, Vydis BC, to sporting greatness.

www.vydis.org.uk/basketball

www.dragonboatfestivals.co.uk