

## **IETF P2P Infrastructure Workshop NCTA Position Paper**

The National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) is the principal trade association for the U.S. cable industry, representing cable operators serving more than 90 percent of the nation's cable television households and more than 200 cable program networks. NCTA's cable operator members operate ISP infrastructures serving over 36 million broadband customers.

The amount of high-speed data traffic on our networks is increasing. Minimizing congestion of available bandwidth is essential to ensuring the highest quality and diversity of broadband Internet service. Effective bandwidth management has been critical to the growth, evolution and accessibility of that service. Peer-to-peer services can be particularly congestive, since the use of peer-to-peer services by only a small fraction of Internet customers can consume a very large portion of the network's resources and capacity.

Cable operators – indeed, all broadband Internet service providers – have an interest in ensuring that usage of P2P services (or any other high-bandwidth-consuming services with the potential to cause congestion) does not significantly degrade the Internet experience for the vast majority of their customers. All of our customers also share that interest. At the same time, cable operators also have an interest in ensuring that their customers are able to use P2P services, or any other web-based service, with a minimum of inconvenience.

Dealing with congestion in a way that balances these interests is the task of network management. The IETF P2P Infrastructure Workshop will examine alternative approaches to network management, and will need to consider how new approaches may affect this balance.

NCTA would like to participate in the IETF P2P Infrastructure Workshop. We support this effort, and believe that a pan-industry workshop under IETF's auspices can be useful in the identification of issues, possible solutions, and potentially the need for standards activities. We look forward to participating in the technical discussions regarding these engineering activities and practices.

NCTA

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