

Open Caribbean Internet eXchange



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Growth of inter-regional content driving a need for a local exchange

- ❑ The Caribbean capacity demand forecast: YE2010=148 Gbps; 2020=2.2 Tbps and this demand is forcing telecommunication companies to address the challenges of creating, facilitating and maintaining sustainable telecommunications growth in the developing Caribbean nations. St. Maarten and the surrounding islands are experiencing the same developments and definitely we see a need for a regional Internet eXchange Points (IXPs)
- ❑ Today, most Caribbean homes can access only "basic" broadband, among the slowest, most expensive, and least reliable in the developing world and this is still hindering the Caribbean region to experience those opportunities that the internet is capable to give the region, to exploit the great and remarkable e-commerce, e-government, and e-education programs that the internet has provided to other countries around the world

Whether a Caribbean Internet exchange will add value to the Caribbean economy

- ❑ Internet eXchange Points (IXPs) in the Caribbean region will bring great possibilities which includes the following:
 1. Building of Redundant IP Transit traffic routes to the rest of the world.
 2. Will create new opportunities for entrepreneurs to design and build content applications custom specifically for the domestic and Caribbean regional market
 3. Enable service providers and operators jointly to share resources available (international content providers) on the eXchange Points in keeping the capital investment as low as possible
 4. Create the opportunity for providers to apply new technology jointly in attempting to get a grip with the potential impacts of new bandwidth-intensive consumer services
 5. Provide guarantee QoS through the transition phased from a circuit-switched environment to the (VOIP) packet-based interconnect between telecom operators that are operating on the domestic and regional market

Business benefits and challenges

□ Benefits:

- Substantial cost-savings will be made for Internet & service providers by eliminating the need to put all traffic through the more expensive long-distance links to the rest of the world
- New local and regional content providers and services, which rely on high-speed low-cost connections become available, further benefiting from the broader user-base available via the IXP.
- This will encourage more local and regional content development and create an incentive for local hosting of services. Furthermore it will ensure online services are equally accessible to all local users, enhance competitive opportunities, and improve the quality and affordability of Internet services

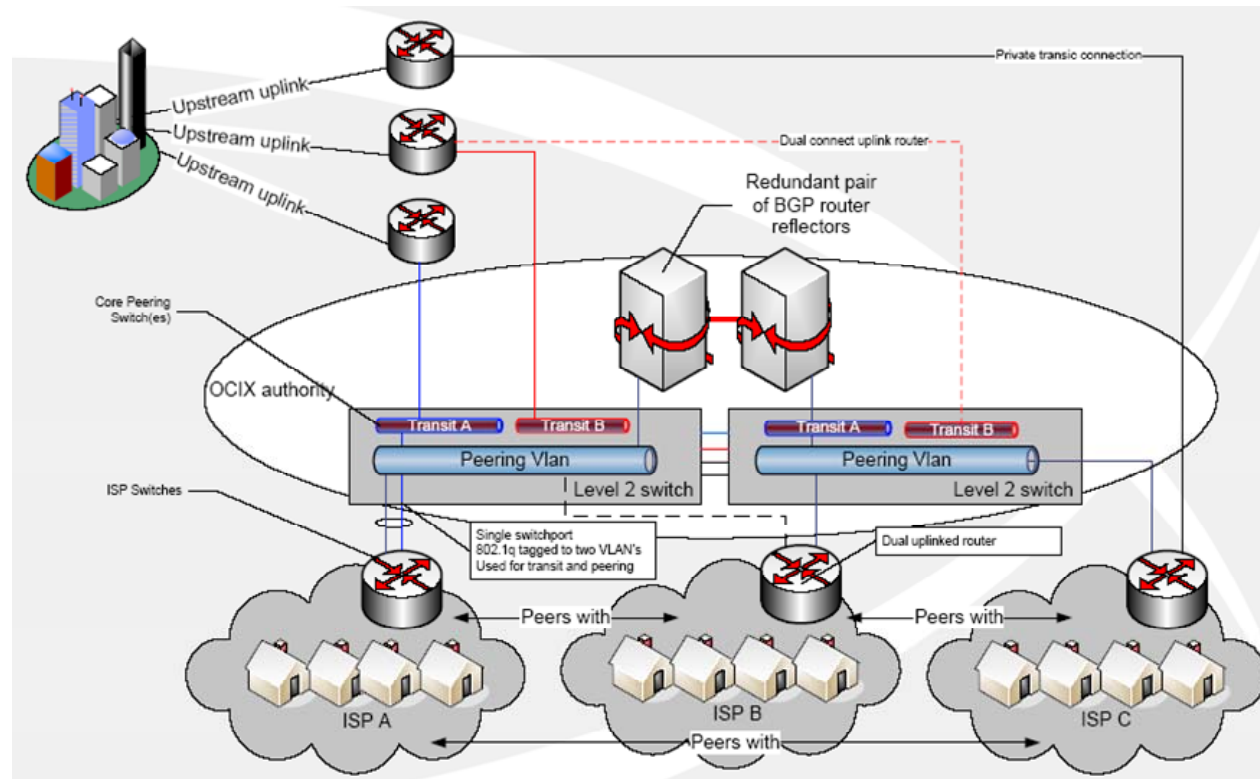
□ Challenges:

- To convince and win over the “BIG PLAYERS” to establish services in the Eastern Caribbean Region with their commitment to bridge the “digital divide” between the region and the more developed countries
- Engagement of all Caribbean stakeholders in helping tackle the priorities for creating the necessary regulatory frameworks and policies for addressing the issues related to the development, diffusion, operation, and governance of the Internet for the Caribbean region

The OCIX organization

- The project was in pipeline since 2006
- On the 21st April 2008, both the OCIX Association and the OCIX N.V. (administrator of the exchange) were established under the Netherlands Antilles Law.
- The Association consist of three founding members;
 - TelEm N.V., an local ISP provider
 - Paradise Server Park N.V, Web Hosting provider
 - SMITCOMS N.V. wholesale telecom provider
- The installation of the OCIX infrastructure has been completely and is currently running in a soft-launch mode
- Very soon a F-rooter server will be installed on the OCIX, sponsored by ISC and LACNIC under the +RAICES Project
- The commercial launch of the OCIX is being planned with workshops on both IXP and IPv6 to create the necessary awareness through the community for all stakeholders of the surrounding islands
- OCIX is a non-profit, neutral and independent, professional exchange.

OCIX website <http://www.ocix.net>



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