



Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group

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BITAG Announces Technical Review Focused on Prioritization and Differentiated Treatment of Internet Traffic

Technical report will explore the technical aspects and uses of prioritization and differentiation

Denver, CO (April 14, 2015): The Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group (BITAG) is pleased to announce a technical review focused on the topic of prioritization and differentiated treatment of Internet traffic. This topic was submitted to BITAG's technical working group by DISH, a founding member of BITAG. The review will result in a report with an anticipated publication date in August 2015.

Differentiation of Internet network traffic on both wireline and wireless networks is a topic of continued interest among policymakers and the public alike. Significantly, the public discourse reflects a lack of clarity as to how traffic differentiation can be accomplished from both a technical perspective and as part of network management practices. To help inform the policy debate surrounding the technical aspects of prioritization and differentiation, BITAG's technical working group will issue a report that describes the various methods and techniques used by network operators to differentiate Internet data traffic — as well as the impact these methods may have on different types of applications. The group will also explore the distinction between prioritized and differential treatment of traffic. Finally, the report will describe appropriate best practices as identified by the group.

Fred Baker, a Fellow at Cisco, and Ken Ko, Senior Staff Scientist at ADTRAN, will be the lead editors of the report on this topic. Douglas Sicker, Executive Director of BITAG, Chair of BITAG's Technical Working Group, Department Head of Engineering and Public Policy and a professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, will chair the review itself.

This will be BITAG's eighth technical review and report. BITAG's previous reports have focused on: Internet interconnection; VoIP impairment, failure, and restrictions; Real-time network management of Internet congestion; Port blocking; SNMP DDoS attack mitigation; Large scale network address translation; and IPv6 whitelisting. Copies of these technical reports can be found on the BITAG website at www.bitag.org.

About BITAG. BITAG is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization focused on bringing together engineers and technologists in a Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop consensus on broadband network management practices and other related technical issues that can affect users' Internet experience, including the impact to and from applications, content and devices that utilize the Internet.

BITAG's mission includes: (a) educating policymakers on such technical issues; (b) addressing specific technical matters in an effort to minimize related policy disputes; and (c) serving as a sounding board for new ideas and network management practices. Specific TWG functions also may include: (i) identifying "best practices" by broadband providers and other entities; (ii) interpreting and applying "safe harbor" practices; (iii) otherwise providing technical guidance to industry and to the public; and/or (iv) issuing advisory opinions on the technical issues germane to the TWG's mission that may underlie disputes concerning broadband network management practices.

BITAG TWG reports focus primarily on technical issues, especially those with the potential to be construed as anti-competitive, discriminatory, or otherwise motivated by non-technical factors. While the reports may touch on a broad range of questions associated with a particular network management practice, the reports are not intended to address or analyze in a comprehensive fashion the economic, legal, regulatory or public policy issues that the practice may raise.

BITAG Leadership –

Executive Director & Chair of the Technical Working Group – Dr. Douglas C. Sicker is BITAG's Executive Director and Chair of the Technical Working Group. Doug is also currently the Department Head and professor of Engineering and Public Policy with a joint appointment in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, as well as the Chief Strategist of CMMB Vision. Previously, Doug was the DBC Endowed Professor in the Dept. of Computer Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder with a joint appointment in, and director of, the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program. Doug recently served as the Chief Technology Officer and Senior Advisor for Spectrum at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Doug also served as the Chief Technology Officer of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Deputy Director & General Counsel – Kaleb A. Sieh is BITAG's Deputy Director and General Counsel, where he performs an operations and legal role. Previously, he was a Research Fellow at the Silicon Flatirons Center at the University of Colorado Law School, where he engaged in research and writing in telecommunications law, technology, and policy. He received his J.D. from CU-Law and his B.A. in Economics from CU as well.

About BITAG's Technical Review Process. BITAG's core substantive work is performed through its Technical Working Group (TWG), which was formed with the core principles of being: technically driven, balanced, open, efficient, independent, and flexible. The TWG reviews technical issues brought to it through Review Requests submitted by both Members and non-Members, or through a majority weighted vote of the TWG engineers themselves. Each individual Review is taken up by a Committee of the TWG that is composed of engineers and technical experts representing a broad cross section of the Internet ecosystem. TWG Committees generally operate on a consensus basis, with backstop weighted voting procedures so that when consensus cannot be achieved, each Member category has an equal say in the work product regardless of the composition of the Committee. Finally, BITAG was structured to work as expeditiously as possible, with each Committee operating under a 120-day "shot clock" to complete the respective review and attendant technical report.

Questions, Suggestions or Topics? BITAG welcomes any questions, comments or suggestions. Also, if you are interested in submitting a technical review request to BITAG, please contact our Deputy Director, Kaleb Sieh, at ksieh@bitag.org.