

The Effect of Evolving IT Applications on Broadband Wireless Requirements

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The requirements driving the convergence of information and wireless telecommunication technologies continue to emerge across all business sectors and political boundaries. In no one area are the needs more evident, however, than in the public safety arena. High-profile incidents, such as shootings, bombings and plane crashes, test the ability of public safety organizations to mount well-coordinated responses. Ideally, large-scale information sharing to and from mobile units, at the moment when it is needed, would provide a much-needed assist to the community. Yet, standardized voice, data, image, and video transfers for all operational scenarios remain a challenge.

This presentation will briefly address one program effort by the National Institute of Justice aimed at providing interoperability and information sharing among local, state, and Federal public safety agencies. At the heart of the program is a user-centered standardization activity that must confront present and projected requirements. A number of IT applications will be discussed as the basis for some of these requirements. With these needs in mind, the standards suite to be adopted ultimately will specify broadband wireless nodes within a nationwide information-sharing infrastructure.