Wireline/Wireless Integration - IMS for Wireline/Wireless Multimedia Convergence: The Vision, Strategies, and Challenges

Description: IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) has become one of the hottest topics in telecommunications. We believe that IMS is now best viewed as an IP Multimedia System that will provide a unified architecture, end-user devices with IP multimedia capabilities, and the systems integration necessary to provide any IP multimedia services for and between any set of wireline and wireless end-users. This report describes the essence of this IMS vision that will provide the full convergence of services and network architecture, creating a blueprint for the future of telecommunications.

The report provides a simplified description of IMS including the new multimedia services that are enabled, the IMS architectural model, the benefits to service providers and end-users from IMS, and the multiple challenges that service providers face in evolving to this new system. Profiles are provided of the four leading US service providers (BellSouth, SBC, Sprint, Verizon) that operate both wireline and wireless businesses, discussing their perspectives and strategies with respect to evolving to IMS. The overall IMS solutions and early customers of eight leading equipment vendors (Alcatel, Cisco, Ericsson, Huawei, Lucent, Motorola, Nokia, Nortel) are described. The report concludes with an assessment of the current market for IMS and discusses key factors that can stimulate the implementation of IMS networks by service providers.

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