



COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND LOCAL ACCESS

Monthly newsletter
May 2018



Image by Zenzeleni Networks.

Welcome to the sixth monthly round-up of developments impacting your local access networks.

1. Get involved

- Northern Public Affairs, in collaboration with the Internet Society, is pleased to release a call for contributions to the Fall 2018 special issue of NPA Magazine focusing on

emerging developments in community networks among Indigenous peoples in North America. Read [more](#).

- APC internship opportunity for an African community networks project. Read [more](#).
- The Internet Society is inviting applications for individuals interested in the Introduction to Network Operations Course. The course will be run monthly in English and French with the registration beginning on the third Monday of every month and closing on the last Wednesday of every month. The current application closes on 30 May 2018. Applicants applying in this window will take the course from 4 June to 9 July. Read [more](#).
- Digital Citizen Summit session proposals are being accepted until 15 June 2018. One of the relevant themes of this summit in relation to community networks is “access and inclusion”. Read [more](#).
- All stakeholders are invited to submit proposals to hold workshops at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to take place in November/December 2018. An announcement is expected imminently on the exact dates and venue of the meeting. The deadline for workshop submissions is 27 May 2018, 23:59 UTC. Read [more](#).

2. Call for grants

- The Beyond the Net Medium and Large Grants Programme is still open for applications. Read [more](#).

3. Events and conferences

3.1 Upcoming events

- Whose Knowledge?: Decolonizing the Internet conference, 17 and 18 June in Cape Town, South Africa. Read [more](#).
- Sarantaporo conference: Building the community in community networks. Read [more](#).
- Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium, 18-20 June in Santo Domingo. One major theme will be “capacity building needs and

policy interventions particularly on community-based ICT development". The programme can be found [here](#). Read [more](#).

3.2 Resources from past events

- Video of the panel at RightsCon: "Addressing the digital divide in Indigenous Communities in North America". Watch [here](#).
- Summary from Steve Song about the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance Global Summit 2018 in London, with observations around Africa. Read [more](#). Presentations and other resources from past DSA events can be found [here](#).
- Shernon Osepa (ISOC) speaks about community networks in a session about internet infrastructure resilience at the 14th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum in Suriname. Watch [here](#).
- Some of the presentations that took place during the "Mesh is in the Air" (formerly Battle Mesh) meeting in Berlin are linked to the different elements of the agenda. Read [more](#). The videos of the presentations are also available. Watch [here](#).

4. Community networks in news and blogs

- South Africa becomes the first country in the region to support community networks. Read [more](#). Explicit support for @ZenzeleniNet and #communitynetworks in the Budget Vote from @DtpsZA in Parliament last week. Hoping other countries in the continent follow the example! Read [more](#).
- [En español] Un camino por el acceso de las comunidades: de los telecentros a las redes comunitarias, por Florencia Roveri de Nodo TAU, Argentina. Leer [más](#).
- Empowering local communities to build, maintain and expand their community network. Read [more](#).
- 'Anti-authority' tech rebels take on ISPs, connect NYC with cheap Wi-Fi. Read [more](#).
- Dustin's internet community roadtrip: In the Bay Area, what redwoods can teach us about the internet. Read [more](#).
- Sovereignty is more than a designation, it is a responsibility. Read [more](#).

- [Em português] No canal no YouTube do Projeto de Redes Comunitárias do Nupef tem vídeos novos pra assistir! Assista [aqui](#).

5. Relevant articles on technologies and other resources related to local access networks

- [En Français] Wi-Fi hot spots to be implemented throughout Togo. Read [more](#).
- Investing in Last-Mile Internet Connectivity Initiatives: Opportunities for social and commercial returns. Read [more](#).

6. Regulation

- [Indigenous Community Telecommunications](#), a civil society association in Mexico, has withstood an [important legal battle](#) for the right of indigenous communities to establish and manage their own community networks of mobile phones and internet. Read [more](#).
- The Democratic Republic of Congo's National Assembly adopts a new Telecommunications Act. Cellcos handed LTE licences. Read [more](#).
- Innovative Licensing Approaches: Enabling access in hard-to-reach places through collaborative partnerships. Read [more](#).
- Community Networks in the EU Parliament - A panel on "Obligations for small providers" with Evangelos Ouzounis, Head of Secure Infrastructure and Services, ENISA; Bruno Veluet, CEO of Leonix, Paris-based B2B ISP member of AOTA; Caty Nymann, Chair, Communication Networks Regulation Working Group, DIGITALEUROPE; and Panayotis Antoniadis, co-founder at NetHood. Watch [here](#).

7. Reports and publications

7.1 Reports relevant to community networks and local access initiatives

- Decolonising the internet: Second International Cyberfeminist Meeting (15 March 2018, Salvador, Brazil). The group adopted a set of principles including principle #4: “The promotion of alternative networks self-managed by communities.” Read [more](#).
- Unleashing Community Networks: Innovative licensing approaches. This paper by ISOC builds on their “Spectrum Paper” and focuses specifically on innovative licensing options for community networks. Read [more](#).

7.2 Academic updates related to community networks

- Gwaka, L. T., May, J., & Tucker, W. Towards low-cost community networks in rural communities: The impact of context using the case study of Beitbridge, Zimbabwe. E J Info Sys Dev Countries. 2018; e12029. Read [more](#).
- Leader Brenda Vilas Boas, “An EPICS Adventure: Bringing Telephone and Internet Service to the Amazon”, IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine. Read [more](#).
- Tonny Okwonga from the non-profit organization BOSCO Uganda presented at the ICT4D conference in Lusaka, Zambia, on Empowering refugees: livelihood enhancement through ICTs. Read [more](#).
- Call for academic papers for the 2019 IFIP WG 9.4 Conference “Strengthening Southern-driven cooperation as a catalyst for ICT4D”, with two tracks that might be of interest: “ICT4D for the Indigenous, by the Indigenous and of the Indigenous” and “Communities, ICT-Enabled Networks, and Development”. Deadline for papers is 3 September 2018. Read [more](#).
- The 1st Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS 2018), formerly ACM Dev (where many academic papers on community networks were presented), will take place on 20-22 June 2018 in California, USA. Papers of potential interest to community networks are: Adaptive Threshold Setting for Determining Spectrum Occupancy in TV White Space (note); DIY Model for Mobile Network Deployment: A Step Towards 5G for All (note); Information-Centric Multi-Access Edge Computing Platform for Community Mesh Networks (paper); Nation-State Hegemony in Internet Routing (paper); and Zyxt: A Network Planning Tool for Rural Wireless ISPs (paper). Read [more](#).
- The ICTD 2019 Conference will take place 4-7 January 2019 in Ahmedabad, India. A call for participation with

8. Software releases for community networks

- There are plenty of new releases coming out of the Mesh is in the Air meeting. We just put together a list with a few of them, but you are invited to go and pick your favourite. Read [more](#).
 1. [Mesh Routing Simulator](#): A simplistic mesh routing simulator to sketch algorithms and edit mesh data.
 2. [Mesh Testbed Generator](#): Config-Mgmt. for OpenWRT (ImageBuilder) for setting up a homogeneous network (i.e. for testbeds).
 3. [OpenWISP 2](#): A growing open source network management system for OpenWRT.

9. Previous editions

- Previous editions of this newsletter are available [here](#).

This newsletter is part of the project titled, “Local Access Networks: Can the unconnected connect themselves?” developed by APC in partnership with Internet Society and Rhizomática, with support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Invite others to subscribe to this monthly newsletter [here](#)!

One more thing! If you have comments about the newsletter or information relevant to the topic that you would like us to include in the next edition, please share it with us at localaccess.newsletter@apc.org.

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(APC)

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