



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Year:

2013

Status:

Laureate

Organization Name:

Government of the District of Columbia – DC-NET

Organization URL:

<http://dcnet.dc.gov/DC/DCNET/About+DC-Net/Projects/DC+Community+Access+Network>

Project Name:

Community Access Network (CAN)

Category:

Economic Development

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

DC-CAN is one tool in the City's efforts to continue the mayor's plan to create jobs and to enhance the local economy. It is a 100 Gbps open access network (originally designed for 40 Gbps, we realized we could get to 100 Gbps and be the first municipal network in the U.S. to do so for a fraction more). The project is twofold: bring fiber-based broadband to community anchors (and outdoor access points for free public Internet access) with a focus on anchors in underserved areas of the city (this has resulted in cost savings and quality increases for a number of anchors), and establish middle-mile services to last-mile providers to

bring broadband into underserved areas (this has been more challenging but we are starting to make headway in relationships with last-mile providers).

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

DC-CAN's groundbreaking ceremony was in Ward 8, March 29, 2011. Since then the project has been a drive in a number of innovations, process improvements, and technology enhancements. It forced DC-Net to improve its operational management of its fiber infrastructure. DC-Net has innovated a state-of-the-art fiber route and asset-mapping tool that enables sales engineers to obtain quick, accurate fiber route quotes in minutes, a process that used to take days and significant man-hours. The OSP engineering team uses these quotes in its design and has produced greater efficiency.

If this is a previously submitted project that has been significantly updated and/or expanded, please describe the nature of the update here. (In 300 words or less.)

A version of the project was submitted previously. Since then DC-CAN became, what we understand to be, the first government municipal network to deliver 100 Gbps into production use for its citizens! That bandwidth is now being put to use, helping accelerate the ability of underserved areas to bridge the digital divide in creating jobs, adding to capabilities, and catalyzing the talent within their neighborhoods. DC-CAN means more bandwidth, for more connected citizens, contributing to more economic power for the City and for those that it touches around the world.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

The project is scheduled for completion June 30, 2013. We are in the final fiber buildout phase for the core and distribution loops, connecting the final groups of community anchors, and completing the outdoor wireless access points for free public Internet access at anchor locations.



Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

We have feature articles on our website from: Community of Hope health and social service clinics, E. L. Haynes public charter school, Educare early childhood education center, and Joint Educational Facilities. We can also mention others if needed. See: <http://dcnet.dc.gov/DC/DCNET/DC-CAN/Features/>. Others include: Howard University, Catholic Charities, Unity Healthcare.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

DC-CAN is a digital divide bridging innovation. It may very well become a best practice for communities to become an active participant in further accelerating the connection of citizens to the Internet, especially those in underserved areas. "A rising tide raises all boats." DC-CAN is a bandwidth tide helping to lift the economic prospects of the City and its stakeholders.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

Assistant Secretary of Commerce Larry Strickling recognized the District for its DC Community Access Network (DC-CAN) at the February 15th "White House Champions of Change" event. Web link: [http://dc.gov/DC/DCNET/About+DC-Net/News+Room/White+House+Hails+OCTO+as+a+"Champion+of+Change](http://dc.gov/DC/DCNET/About+DC-Net/News+Room/White+House+Hails+OCTO+as+a+)