



The VON Coalition

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VoIP Leaders Looking Forward to Working With FCC on Law Enforcement Issues
Group Warns That Extending Wiretaps Laws Beyond Congressional Intent Could Stall Technology Benefits

Washington, D.C. – The nation’s leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations, are looking forward to the release of the FCC’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, announced today, that will address law enforcement access to Internet voice communications.

The VON Coalition, the voice for Internet voice innovation and the policy framework that enables it, continues to believe that law enforcement must be able to investigate and prevent crime by using electronic surveillance and are fully committed to ensuring law enforcement can carry out their duties, “ Dave Svanda, a VON Coalition spokesperson said. “At the same time we don’t believe it is necessary to expand CALEA, the telephone wiretap law, to Internet communications beyond Congressional intent because it could inadvertently stifle innovation and delay consumer benefits without a commensurate increase in security.”

Given law enforcement’s existing capabilities to access VoIP traffic and the commitment to voluntary cooperation that VoIP providers offer law enforcement officials to address access problems that do arise, extending CALEA to Internet technologies like VoIP are unnecessary.

“When Congress enacted CALEA, lawmakers specifically did not want the law applied to Internet communications nor used in ways that would stifle innovation or delay deployment of new technologies like VoIP,” Svanda said.

“VoIP is not another flavor of telephone service. It’s a new frontier in communications for individuals and businesses alike, and it requires forward-thinking regulatory approaches,” Svanda said. “If we subject this new technology to legacy telecom regulation, consumers and business users will miss out on the new services, increased choices and better prices that VoIP can deliver.”

The VON Coalition has previously outlined it’s vision for a policy framework in comments filed with the FCC in response to a joint petition from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration asking the FCC to declare that VoIP services are covered by the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act or CALEA.

The VON Coalition’s filing on the FBI/DOJ petition can be found at:

http://www.von.org/usr_files/VON%20CALEA%20Comments%20April%202012%20200

The VON Coalition’s statement on the filing can be found at:

http://www.von.org/usr_files/CALEA%20release%204-13-04.pdf

About the VON Coalition:

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes AT&T, BMX, Callipso, CallSmart, Convedia, Covad, IceNet, iBasis, Intel, Intrado, MCI, Microsoft, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, TeleGlobe, Texas Instruments, VocalData, and Voiceglo, believes that Americans are fundamentally better off with a generally hands off regulatory approach to Internet and Internet based services like VoIP. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has consistently advocated that federal and state regulators maintain current policies of refraining from extending legacy regulations to Internet services, including VoIP. More information about the VON Coalition can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.von.org>