

Testimony of Harris Schwartz

THE FUTURE OF BROADBAND

Greetings COPA Commissioners:

Good Morning

I have been asked today to provide insight on the future of broadband technologies in relation to the Internet and protection of children online. The growth of Broadband is by any means an explosive and powerful resource available today as one way of accessing the Internet and the World Wide Web. More and more companies today are pushing the convergence of Broadband out to the consumer and business markets as fast as they possibly can.

As an Internet Security and cyber crime expert, my responsibilities over the years have been to protect the interests and assets of companies doing business as Internet providers. From a security standpoint, deploying security initiatives over the Internet the risks and liabilities and solutions are the same. The real challenge with

the emergence of Broadband access is the window of opportunity for predators to stalk our children using these new tools.

The scenario of “Hey little girl, want some candy” is one that is easier to occur, simply because through the use of advanced technologies the lure of children online is faster and easier.

Deviants who trade and download kiddy porn in secretive groups are using the same tool that everyday people use to view news clips or download fun new games. Individuals could go to a website and view an X-rated movie. With broadband, the same individual can now download that movie at the click of a button.

Forget about the 900 and 976 chat lines for meeting other people. The Internet has replaced the back alley as a meeting ground for these subversive individuals and the emergence of Broadband technologies has only increased the ease with which these individuals operate. In the past, a sexual predator could send a naked picture to his target. Now with broadband, the entire experience has changed, because now the predator can send an entire video of himself in seconds.

In the last 5 years of working with law enforcement on computer related crimes, child exploitation has been the largest attribute of investigations, which has included the use of computers and the Internet to traffic in illegal images.

Now by no means am I suggesting that technology be held back for the sake of protecting innocent ears and eyes, what I am saying is that a whole new group of providers are coming to market without the capabilities and the experience to handle such complex issues. Telephone companies, the Local Exchange Carriers, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, private companies, media firms, cellular companies are all battling for the Internet Service Provider for the Broadband consumer. Through my involvement with the newly formed DOJ Task Force on Child Exploitation, new reporting requirements were made to all electronic communication providers on reporting instances of child pornography and exploitation. One of the proactive measures agreed by most companies, was to filter out known newsgroups forums that were identified as to containing content that related to

child exploitation activities. While most providers cannot be held responsible for what information is flowing over the Internet, they can take a proactive approach in many cases in preventing actions by their subscribers on their respective networks. In addition to taking proactive measures and steps, proper policies are needed in order to enforce these concerns and back up decisions made in response to these activities on the Internet. These new access carriers must understand that they have a responsibility to society not just there customers.

As I stated earlier this is a very complex issue that can not be solved by a single carrier or organization. As the “I Love You” virus pointed out, the emergence of a global Internet community only serves to complicate matters. Not all nations are as vigilant in the pursuit of these predators as the U.S. Varying laws and social norms may create a more lenient environment for these traders of sin in foreign lands. I call upon the federal government and the Providers in forming cooperatives in influencing the new “companies” offering broadband, to educate and provide

assistance, as well as the other countries where we don't share treaties, to enact laws that prohibit the possession of any child pornography and in the creation of international laws that prohibit the trafficking of these types of images over the internet.