

Karl went through the entire mpeg based ATSC system, showing how to test it from beginning to end



Last Meeting ...

Compression

Henry Lassige, Jr.
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Our May meeting was again held at Alexander's Pasta Express. We had 11 attendees and Paul Byers was the presiding officer.

It was announced that for 2009 we will need to find a new location for the Expo since the Monroeville Expo Mart will no longer be available.

The program for the meeting was "Compression Techniques and Standards," presented by Karl Kuhn of Tektronix. He covered not only compression techniques but also modulation schemes and the pros and cons of each. He also went over some of the most common problems that can occur in a transmission path.

After the program we got to have a close look at some of Tektronix HD test equipment.



Next Meeting ... IP Management and Control

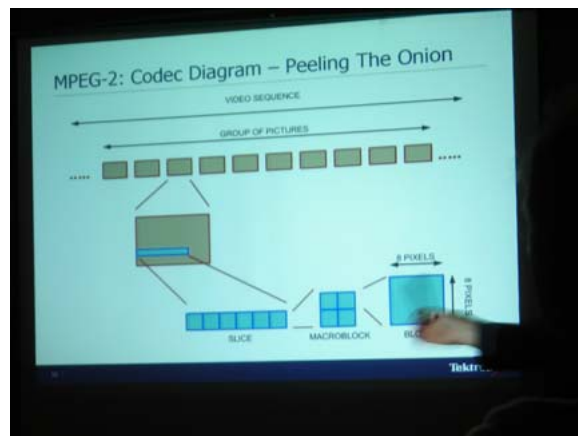
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WTAE
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This month Ken Dillard of Statmon Technologies will present a program of interest to both radio and television members. IP connectivity in broadcast equipment has become so ubiquitous in our industry it seems even a common distribution amplifier can be monitored and/or controlled. Obviously this presents an overwhelming range of options for facility management and monitoring, but just how much do you trust to IP?

Ken will go through the fundamental issues of IP-based communications and control. The technology is powerful but could potentially be misapplied in some cases without a working knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses in the technology.

Ken has had a long career in broadcasting, initially as a radio Chief Engineer for Clear Channel, and more recently (2000-2005) as District Sales Manager, TV, for Harris in the northeast. In 2005, Ken joined Statmon Technologies, Inc.

Come out, have some dinner, network, and learn.



A slide from Karl's presentation



Chairman's Corner

How Would You Like That Meeting?

Paul Byers
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This month's meeting will once again be held at Alexander's on Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield. The date is Thursday, June 19th at 7:00 PM. The program will feature a presentation by Ken Dillard from Statmon Technologies. Please mark the date on your calendar and be sure to attend. Remember that this is the last regular meeting before our summer hiatus and dinner is provided courtesy of Chapter 20.

As we get ready for our summer break, I would like your feedback on what we can do to improve the quality of the meetings when we return in September.

Is Alexander's the best meeting place, should we switch locations each month, or should we continue searching for a permanent home?

Are third Thursday dinner meetings better than third Thursday lunch meetings? Or would a different day and/or time work better for your schedule?

What sort of topics would interest you enough to make you come to a meeting?

Would you like to attend half day or full day seminars on topics that would benefit you at work?

Should we continue our meetings through the summer months?

I know this newsletter goes out each month to hundreds of local broadcasters yet we only get 12-15 people at the meetings.

I welcome your feedback on any of these questions. Please take a few minutes and send your suggestions to pbyers@wqed.org.

If I don't see you at the meeting on June 19th, I hope you have a great summer.



Alexanders, 5104 Liberty Avenue, is on the left only a few blocks from Baum Blvd. On-street parking is free after 6 P.M. Paid parking lots also available. We have a private room downstairs. The food's great!



After the meeting Karl gave an up close demonstration of tests on an actual ATSC stream recorded on a hard drive.



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Musings of a Consultant

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I have storage on my mind of late.

On my desk I now have a RAID 1 NAS system for business files, a modest unit by today's standards of only 750 GB (mirrored). But stations today have terabytes hanging on their news editing systems, their playout servers, near line spinning disk, and often in robotic archives. As tape slowly fades out, storage is growing by leaps and bounds. Add it all up and there is a lot of storage being sold to broadcasters.

The grand shame in all of this is that it is seldom a well-managed and purposeful strategy with goals that must be achieved. Worse, it is often the result of a "turf war" with different departments vying for control of their own storage because only they know what is REALLY needed to protect their unique content.

As an industry, we need to embrace storage as a utility function provided across a facility, or indeed distributed among stations in a group. Who owns and controls the pool of resources should not matter. What matters is that the goals are carefully articulated and a coherent strategy is developed which maximizes access, minimizes cost, and provides the appropriate level of security for all content.

FCC Report

FCC LIFTS FREEZE ON MAXIMIZATION APPLICATIONS

Window Closes June 20, 2008

Paul Byers

The FCC recently released a Public Notice lifting the freeze on DTV maximization applications and petitions for rulemaking to amend the DTV Table of allotments to specify substitute channels. All applications or channel substitution proposals filed from May 30 through June 20, 2008 will be treated as though filed on the same day, so there is no advantage to an early filing during this window.

Previously-filed applications that included freeze waiver requests will be treated as though filed during this window.

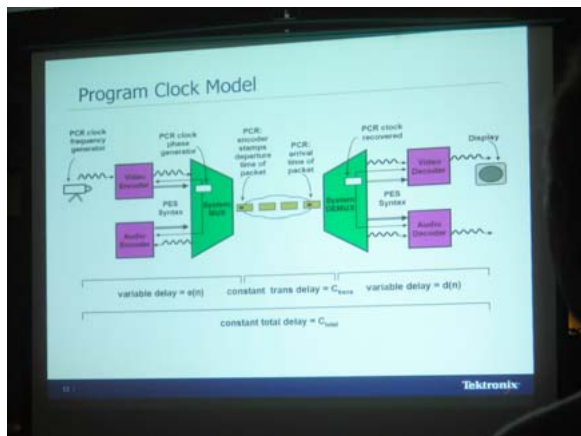
Licensees that have pending petitions for reconsideration of the DTV Table should file maximization applications rather than rely on approval of their petitions in order to preserve their maximization prospects.

Petitions for allotment of DTV channels for new stations or for changes in community of license will not be accepted at this time.

In a novel approach to processing, the Commission will not prefer one mutually exclusive proposal over another filed during the window. Rather, it will grant any otherwise technically acceptable conflicting applications subject to the condition that "the applicants resolve their mutual exclusivity within 30 days of the grant." If such agreements are not made, the construction permits will be cancelled and the applicants will be required to file fresh applications if they want to continue to pursue maximization.

After the window, applications will be processed on first-come, first-served basis.

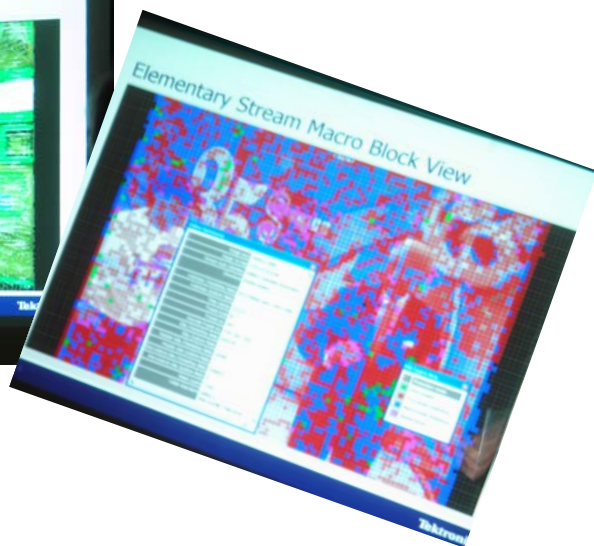
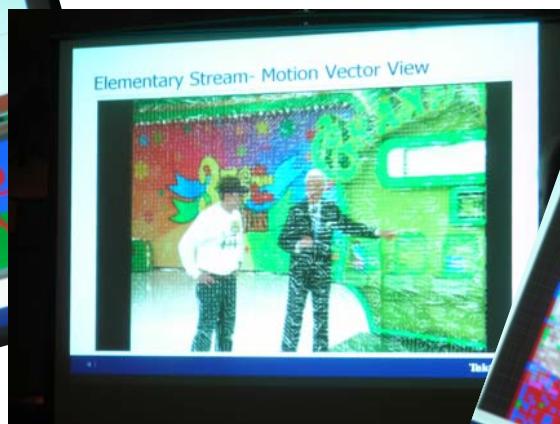
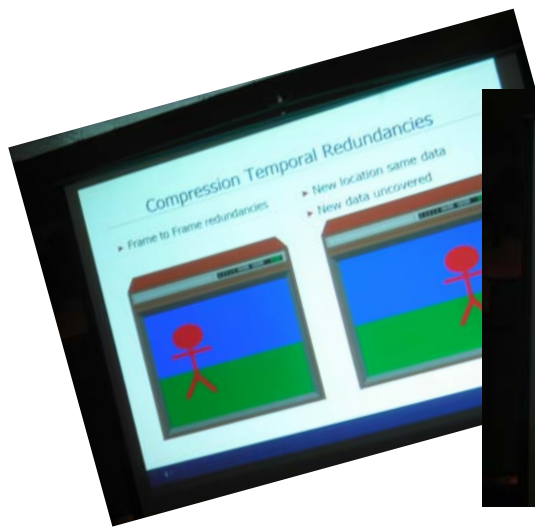
It should be noted that maximization proposals will not by themselves extend underlying construction deadlines. Licensees must be prepared to meet all currently applicable deadlines.



A slide from Karl's presentation

SCTE Annual Golf Outing

The Penn-Ohio chapter of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers is having their 2008 Golf Outing on July 23, but the deadline for registration is June 13. Friends and members of SBE Chapter 20 are invited to take part. Cost is \$90. You can call Isadore Santangelo at 412-747-6468 or go to the Penn-Ohio chapter web site at <http://chapter.scte.org/Penn-Ohio/home.cfm> to register.



Some of the slides from Karl's presentation

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Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 19

IP Management and Control Issues in a Broadcast Environment

by Ken Dillard of Statmon Technologies

Location: Alexander's Pasta Express, 5104 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh

Phone: 412-687-8741

Time: 6:30 PM Gather and shoot the breeze

7:00 PM Dinner