After the Windfall:
Sustainable broadband infrastructure in the long view

Christian Sandvig
Matt Crain
Emily Shaw
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• The Lessons for Public Policy
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Good data are hard to find.
High-Speed Providers by 5-Digit Geographical ZIP Code
(As of December 31, 2007)

Number of Providers *
- Blue: 7 or more
- Orange: 4 to 6
- Yellow: 1 to 3
- Green: Zero Delivery Areas

* Provider serves at least one subscriber in the ZIP Code. All reported technologies are included. See footnote 2 following Tables 1-6 for details.

Compelling narratives are as important as good data.
1. Chill the recession
2. Transform the economy
RUS $2.5 billion

NTIA $4.7 billion

Public computing access > $200m

"Sustainable" broadband > $250m

Broadband mapping < $350m
Estimated costs for comprehensive broadband compared to stimulus (billions)
Broadband as a proportion of overall funding schemes

- Broadband/Sci & Tech (2009 Stim.)
  $7.2/111 billion

- E-rate/Universal Service (1998-2007)
  $21/58 billion

- E-rate/Universal Service (2007)
  $1.8/7 billion
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September 2000
October 2000
February 2001
March 2001
2001-2003

Photo credit: Matt Rantanen

Photo credit: Hope Hall
2001-2003

Photo credits: Matt Rantanen
2001-2003
2001-2003
Late 2003
March 2004-on
Summer/Fall 2006
October 2007

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The Problem of Funding
I.B.M. Delivers Rural Broadband Over Power Lines

By SAUL HANSELL

With $7 billion of government money on the line, it’s no surprise that all kinds of companies are claiming they can wire the most isolated ranchers and mountaintop recluses with broadband Internet service.

On Thursday, I.B.M. piped up to say that it is working with rural electric cooperatives to offer high-speed Internet service, delivered over power lines.
The Problem of Uniqueness
Modest Steps

Sustainability by **Subsidy Design**
Provide **Brokering**
Less **Decentralization**
**Activist Regulation** of Existing Carriers
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