



Case Study: The Community of Bella Bella

Early in 2002, Internet access for Bella Bella, a small community on the coast of British Columbia, was expensive, unreliable and slow. The Bella Bella Community School operated as the only local ISP, offering limited dial-up access to the rest of the community. Since the school's needs naturally came first, the community at large was not guaranteed consistent access. Those wanting an alternative, more dependable service had to look to an ISP located outside the community, and were subjected to expensive long-distance toll charges.

The Bella Bella community turned to 1NterLink to provide a resolution.

1NterLink solves Bella Bella's problem

The 1Nterlink system is specifically designed to provide high-speed, inexpensive and reliable Internet access for remote communities. The basic concept involves the use of an innovative broadcast caching technology that stores Internet data locally and delivers it to the community via existing telephone or wireless technology. This approach can free up substantial amounts of bandwidth, and increase the speed of access far beyond telephone modem speeds.

In Bella Bella, access is provided from the powerful HP server, which is located in the band council office, through a combination of wireless links, copper and fiber connections, to various locations throughout the community. The school and residences connect to the network either through a standard dial modem or a wireless Ethernet link. In the case of Bella Bella, the local telephone company provides the primary Internet access, with backup being supplied by the satellite systems. 1NterLink is designed to be adaptable, as every community is different.

Enriching the community

The installation of 1Nterlink at Bella Bella has not only exceeded their expectations for high-speed and reliable Internet access, but is also empowering the community. By providing access to information for everyone, from students and parents, to business people and elders, 1NterLink connects Bella Bella with a world of resources.

"By implementing this unique solution, 1Nterlink created many opportunities to enrich the community beyond just providing faster Internet access" said Greg Protti, Vice President of Marketing for Ai Systems Group, the marketing arm of Altnet Systems Inc. "The school, for example, reaped further benefits through the inclusion of SchoolWeb Librarian, a fully-automated internet index and retrieval system; and a new local business was established to run the ISP," added Protti.



The Problem:

A remote community is looking to replace their current unreliable and slow Internet service.

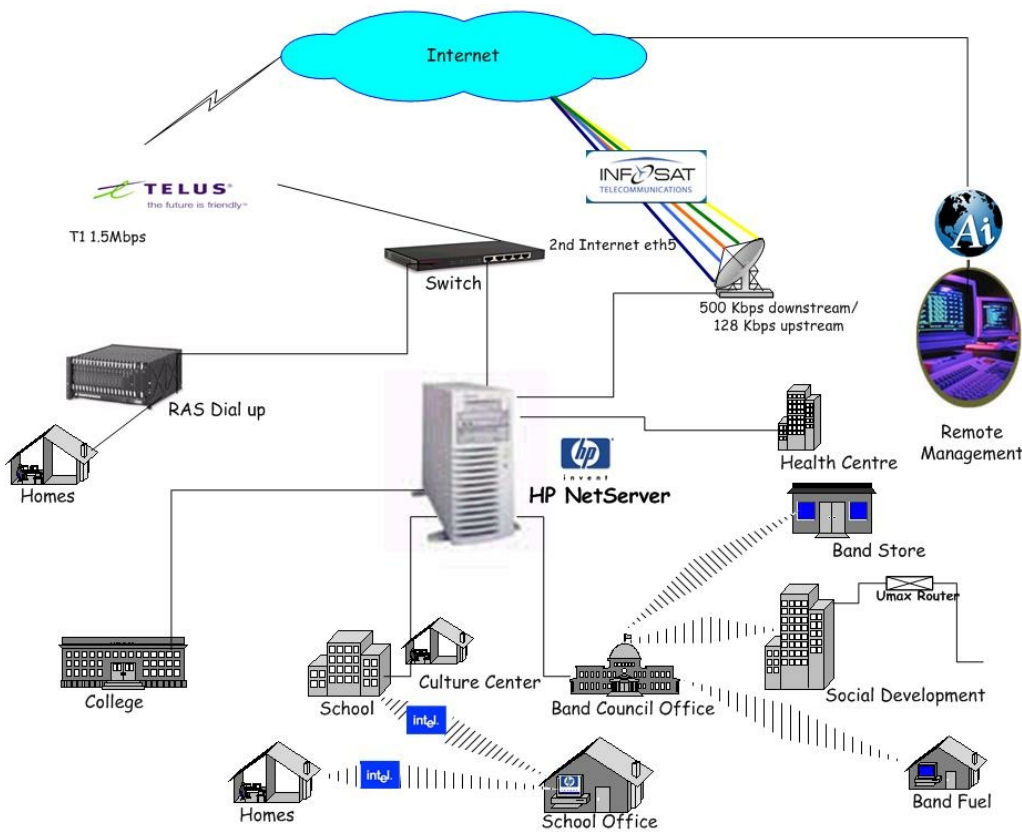
The Solution:

Utilizing the community's existing telecom infrastructure, the 1NterLink system, in combination with the HP caching server, provides a complete ISP solution

The Benefits:

The community now enjoys reliable and fast Internet access, providing new business and employment opportunities for its membership

The 1NterLink Solution for Bella Bella



TYPICALLY, HERE'S HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS:

- 1 A user makes a request for an Internet website
- 2 The 1nterLink server first searches its memory to determine if the site was recently requested and cached (stored) locally
- 3 If the website is present in the 1nterLink server, the information is delivered immediately to the user
- 4 If the file is not available in the server cache, the 1nterLink server goes to the Internet
- 5 The file is then downloaded to the local server via satellite or telco line and is forwarded onto the user
- 6 All subsequent requests for this file are now available from the local 1nterLink server.

Now that Bella Bella is enjoying the benefits of affordable Internet access, local businesses and entrepreneurs can now market their products and ideas over the World Wide Web. As a result, this spawns demand for web page design, e-commerce expertise, and other new skills related to hosting a web presence. 1nterLink facilitates anyone, especially the young people of the community, to vie for more career opportunities that can be commercially developed in the local community.

1nterLink meets the needs of the Heiltsuk First Nation community in Waglisla (Bella-Bella) (www.heiltsuk.com). It serves their educational Internet access needs, enables the

Band Office to become a community Internet Service Provider, and leverages their existing telephone access grid and satellite technology. Internet subscriber fees will pay for the 1nterLink integrated solution and allow this service to become very profitable to the community in the future. 1nterLink can also provide dedicated, secure access to the local RCMP division, and to the community Hospital (including a broad spectrum of wellness information) as an extension to this service.

With high-speed Internet access provided by 1nterLink, Waglisla has now joined the Global Village. ■

Technology Partners. Working together to bridge the digital divide.

