

The First 100 Feet: Options for Internet and Broadband Access

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The growth of the Internet has been propelled in significant part by user investment in infrastructure: computers, internal wiring, and the connection to the Internet provider. This "bottom-up" investment minimizes the investment burden facing providers. New technologies such as wireless and data transmission over power lines, as well as deregulation of telecommunications and electric utilities, will provide new opportunities for user investment in intelligent infrastructure as leverage points for Internet and broadband access. Recasting the "problem of the last 100 feet" as "the opportunity of the first 100 feet," this book challenges individuals, businesses, and policymakers to rethink fundamental issues in telecommunications policy. The contributors look at options for Internet and broadband access from the perspective of homeowners, apartment complexes, and small businesses. They evaluate the opportunities and obstacles for bottom-up infrastructure development and the implications for traditional and alternative providers at the neighborhood, regional, and national levels. Already, some argue that Internet service will become the common denominator platform on which all other services can be carried. A Publication of the Harvard Information Infrastructure Project.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Historically, the problem of connecting communications providers' neighborhood substations with individual subscribers' homes and offices has been called the "last mile problem," or the challenge of the last 100 feet. In *The First 100 Feet: Options for Internet and Broadband Access*, a group of authors turns the problem around, presenting it as an obstacle to be solved and financed from the bottom up (by non-telecommunications businesses, communities of homeowners, and individuals) rather than from the top down (by telecommunications companies).

In discussing the problem in a series of assembled articles, the authors explain the relative merits--both economic and, to a lesser degree, technical--of various connectivity solutions. They cover cable modems, satellite dishes, dedicated-line services like Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), cellular technologies, and fiber optics.

The First 100 Feet employs rather academic writing styles throughout, and it's rife with charts and endnotes. Some of the economic data presented is fascinating: technology adoption trends are explained by comparing the cost of a phone call in 1947 (and its subsequent decline) with the cost of a personal computer between 1985 and 1998. There's also valuable advice on how the institutions that affect our lives--including local governments and utility companies--might adapt to compete in the coming connected world. --*David Wall*

About the Author

Deborah Hurley is Director of the Information Infrastructure Project at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. James H. Keller is Vice President of Lexeme, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Moreno:

Often the book *The First 100 Feet: Options for Internet and Broadband Access* has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research before write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

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