

## **Sprint Customers Experience Internet's Fastest Track**

*Production network running four times today's technology speeds*

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Business customers of Sprint (NYSE: FON) in California risked an Internet speeding ticket by recently operating on a 40 Gigabit per second (Gbps) next-generation Sprint network once thought to be years away from service. This is believed to be the first time live-production Internet traffic has been carried over a 40 Gigabit link and is indicative of the Internet's evolutionary growth.

Sprint posted the newest high-speed data rate on its production IP network between San Jose and Stockton, Calif., a data route for many of Sprint's global IP customers, including some of the world's top Internet and e-commerce companies. The elevated Sprint network speeds were part of a technology trial and achieved with Cisco Carrier Routing System (Cisco CRS-1) routers, StrataLight OC-768c optical transport and CIENA dense wave division multiplexing technology. This new capacity is four times the current 10 Gigabit per second industry operating standard.

"Several of our customers are indeed running on a 'faster track,'" confirmed Kathy Walker, executive vice president of Network Services for Sprint. "We've begun exposing users to next-generation technology because the need is sooner than previously thought. For anyone impatient for a peek at the future Internet, the wait is over."

Business and consumer broadband applications such as VoIP, HDTV and multicasting are behind the new bandwidth capacity requirements in the underlying Internet network. New handheld devices with advanced features and more powerful real-time applications also create network demands for higher speeds, better quality images and bigger images. Customers whose businesses depend on high-capacity Internet connectivity will be beneficiaries of this advancement.

"Because all network services are converging around IP, the capacity and reliability of the core network are critical concerns," said David Willis, senior infrastructure analyst, META Group. "This raises the bar to a whole new level."

Sprint routinely anticipates network capacity needs and prepares for Internet traffic requirements to ensure that its network is ready to meet customer demands. Beginning in the early 1990s, traffic on the Internet has grown over 100 percent per year on average. "Network equipment and technology must stay ahead of that pace," explained Oliver Valente, vice president of Technology Development for Sprint.

As early as 1992, Sprint was the first long-distance carrier to provide Internet services. It was 1997 when Sprint deployed the first Cisco® 12000 Series Routers for high-performance IP transport and was the first to deploy OC-12c Packet over SONET/SDH (POS) on the Internet. Within a year, the company became the first carrier to deploy OC-48 speeds over the Internet. In 2000, Sprint became the world's first Internet provider to provide customers with Internet connections at 2.4 Gbps (OC-48 speeds). Then, in 2003 Sprint turned up its first 10 Gbps (OC-192c/STM-64c POS) customer connection. These incredible customer port speeds require ever-larger IP networks formed of massive routers such as the Cisco CRS-1 and the OC-768c 40 Gbps facility Sprint put into production. Sprint influenced the development of the new Cisco CRS-1 routing system launched last week and has actively tested the system in the Sprint network for the last nine months.

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