4 and 6 April 2006 (Lehr) –
Lecture : Challenges for Convergence: Interconnection

Overview of the policy challenges introduced by convergence from voice and video’s vertical “silos” to converged digital networks patterned after the Internet’s horizontally layered architecture. Case study of carrier interconnection as a convergence policy issue, with focus on the need for interconnection policies among network service providers (backbone Internet providers, wireless and wireline networks, ISPs and ILECs, etc.) and alternative models for regulating interconnection. Debate will focus on whether there is a need to adopt a universal (converged) interconnection regime and the rationale for bill and keep.

Assigned Readings for this Lecture Include:


Some questions to consider include:

- How does "convergence" challenge policymakers? What are the implications for traditional broadcast, telecom, and cable regulation?
- Why is it important to adopt a unified intercarrier compensation scheme? What are the challenges to doing this? What are the benefits (costs) of doing (failing to do) this?
- Do you think Bill and Keep is the right approach for regulating intercarrier compensation?

Additional (Optional) Readings Include:


