

CSRIC Working Group Descriptions

Working Group 7 – Pandemic Planning – Priority Service Requirements

Description: In the event of a major outbreak of infectious disease there will be a tendency for large groups of people to telecommute to avoid clustering in common locations. This migration from enterprise to residence will be difficult to plan for and may lead to congestion in communications networks. The national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) community has access to effective priority communications services that enable members to complete emergency calls even during times when networks have sustained considerable damage, and, thereby have limited capacity, and times of extreme congestion. The primary systems are the government emergency telecommunications service (GETS) and wireless priority service (WPS). These systems were designed to operate with circuit switched networks. As the networks evolve toward internet protocol (IP) networks, and the NS/EP community migrates to these networks and services, fewer and fewer members of the NS/EP community will be able to rely on these priority services to complete their essential communications. As a result, it is incumbent that network operators develop NS/EP priority services for the next generation IP-based networks. To help with this development, we are assigning the following tasks to the CSRIC: (1) develop a NGN IP priority service requirements document that specifies the order of magnitude of users, types of services covered (e.g., voice, data, video, others), number of levels of priority, processes for authorizing priority access, performance standards/metrics, and expected costs; and (2) develop a priority services implementation strategy (e.g., which types of service should be rolled out first).

Duration: Twelve months.