FCC PSHSB Interoperability Forum

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Public Safety Communications Research

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Keys to Interoperability

- Utilizing standardized commercial technology, fora and processes as much as possible
- Having a national framework to set parameters and represent the network as a whole is essential to ensuring nationwide interoperability.
  - Even more crucial to have common standards and testing regimens in a multi-vendor nationwide network (e.g. PSCR Demonstration Network)
  - Continual standards development (R8, R9, R10… etc) and gaps in specifications and testing that ensure operational use and public safety interoperability e.g quality of service, priority, preemption, mission critical voice, etc.
    - New software releases by vendors for bug fixes, features, content
    - New hardware platforms
    - New applications

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Implications

- Typically these issues are addressed before systems are built out, because:
  - Significant resources could be required to change things after the fact
  - Potential for stove-piped systems that may be unable to interoperate with later networks… e.g. QoS
  - Opportunity for de-facto "standards" that could have long-term impact on interoperability
- It is imperative to address these issues before the national network is deployed, the goals of national interoperability and even operability may not be met

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