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Letter from the Editor

"Futures made of virtual insanity" -Jamiroquai

Okay, so I understand the irony of using a reference to a 14-year-old acid-jazz-pop song to encapsulate the complexity of next-gen networks, but when thinking about the increasing flood of complicated services being delivered over shiny new networks, it's the song that immediately enters my mind. Darn you, Jay Kay.

Dated pop songs notwithstanding, new networks, especially on the wireless side, are both enabling and responding to an explosion of capability that reeks of a certain virtual insanity. The growth of LTE, WiMAX, and myriad other technologies (note that I didn't use the term "4G", for reasons that some of the articles in this issue may elucidate) and, more importantly, the business cases these networks can facilitate are part of a steady move towards the picture of complexity that can confound the most illustrious service provider.

"The growth of next-gen networks can confound the most illustrious service provider."



In this issue of Pipeline, we try to unpack some of that complexity as we tackle the nature, challenges, and promises of next gen networks. Our own editorial staff attempts to decode some of the inscrutable lexicon surrounding many next-gen offerings, thanks to a haze of marketing jargon. Jesse Cryderman compares and contrasts some of the terminology to which we've all grown accustomed, Ed Finegold explores the promise of machine-to-machine communications, and John Wilson sits down with T-Mobile to talk about their "4G speeds".



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We also hear from Tekelec, who tell us why the road to LTE is paved with Diameter, and from Conceptwave's Fareed Kahn, who explores the connection between BSS as we know it and SDPs. In addition, Amdocs's David Chambers gives us the latest on the capacity crunch, and Netcracker's Sanjay Mewada brings us a slice of the pain and promise of the gigabit society.

We bring you all that, plus the latest in news and opinion coming out of Mobile World Congress and impacting the communications IT community.

Enjoy that virtual insanity.

Best,

Tim Young

Editor-in-Chief

generations in the emerging gigabit society.