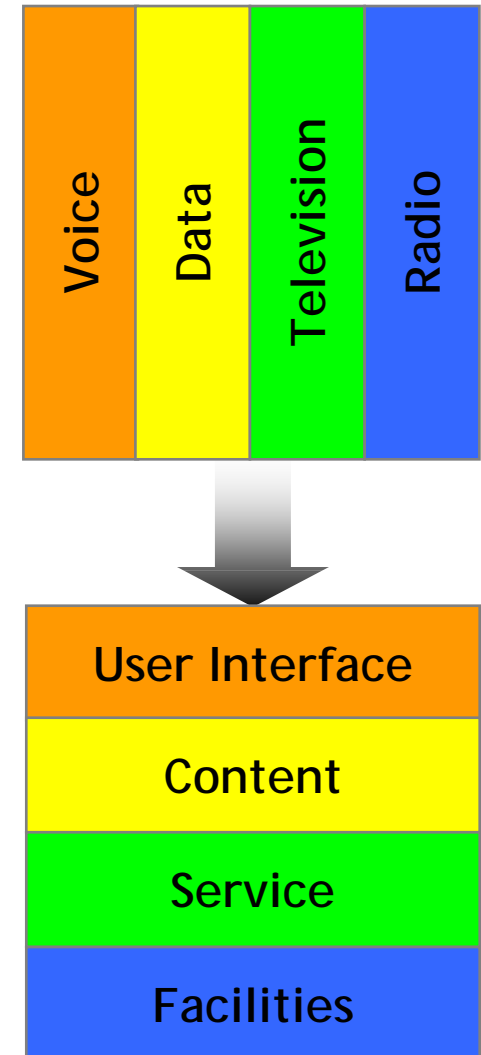






## What is convergence?

- The **underlying trend** is firms in IT, telecom, and broadcasting sectors attempting to offer multiple services.
- This trend is **driven** by the ability in IP networks to **separate facilities and services**.
- This trend is **strengthened** by the reducing cost, increasing capacity, and proliferation of:
  - *Computing devices* – smaller multimedia devices
  - *Media channels* – bandwidth hungry services
  - *IP networking* – any service, any facility
  - *Wireless telecom* – mobility, cheaper and quicker deployment







## Regulatory challenges

- For regulators, the fundamental problem arising from convergence is **reconciling old frameworks to new technologies and removing asymmetry**.

### Old framework



### New challenges

- Specific network-service rules (cable-TV, telephone-voice)
- Telecom and broadcasting were separate, and could have different rules and agencies
- Different obligations and rules for different pairs
- Underlying regulatory philosophy was different

- Who regulates IPTV over phone lines or VoIP over cable? Which rules apply?
- Who follows what rules?
- Force reconciliation or lead to confusion

- The key problem is that old rules were different for different pairs.
- In a converged era, this **asymmetry** causes confusion.



## Key regulatory issues

- Among the range of issues that regulators consider when addressing convergence, the



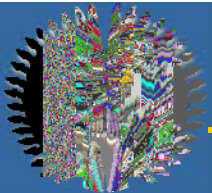
# Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

*Organization of American States*



## **Internet “Readiness”: Infrastructure requirements for EC**

- Telecommunications/ Information Technology (level of telephone line, cellular phone, cable TV penetration)
- Personal Computers (with Internet connection)



## ROLE OF CITEL

- **Telecommunications advisory body** of the Organization of American States - OAS
- Brings together representatives of **OAS Member States, the private sector and international/regional organizations.**
- **Mission:** To foster the development of ICT/telecommunications in Americas.
- **Vision:** To be a responsive, dynamic, and effective specialized advisory body that promotes the ongoing exchange of experiences, information, and knowledge between governments and the private sector and develops reference guidelines to assist Member States in achieving their objectives.
- **Mandates:** Summits of the Americas and OAS General Assembly.





## **CITEL TOP PRIORITIES**

- **Connectivity Agenda of the Americas**
- **Technology watch**
- **Regional Spectrum Harmonization**
- **Policy and Regulatory aspects related to Convergence**
- **Digital TV roll out**
- **Capacity building**
- **Development of coordinated regional proposals for global telecommunications fora**



**THANK YOU**

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