



Illinois Century Network Regional Technology Centers

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Region II	847.294.4700
Region III	630.907.2950
Region IV	815.936.4644
Region V	815.632.4080
Region VI	309.671.7683
Region VII	217.353.2693
Region VIII	618.651.9633
Region IX	618.453.3833

[IBOP-EC Progress Map](#)
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**Lighting Illinois
Building for our Future!**

IBOP Project UPDATE



As the **July 31, 2013** original project deadline has passed, construction crews are completing the last of the field work and ICN staff is busy configuring equipment and lighting the fiber.

Between ICN and Illinois State University (ISU), 1,026 of 1,035 (99%) of the new fiber construction is complete. Ninety-seven percent of the leased fiber miles are secured and 98% of the network is operational. ICN and ISU have connected 223 of 325 community anchor institutions. Much of the work left is splicing between fiber segments and will be complete within the next few weeks.

The grant has been extended through September 30, 2013 to allow time to complete the remaining work. CMS has approximately 21 miles of new construction to finish. The remaining work is comprised of four short lateral builds and the end of a backbone segment. These routes were delayed due to permits and a few required changes to the route in order to secure final approval from the permitting entities.

Fiber Sales Expand

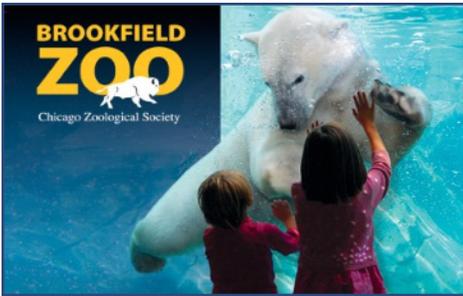
ICN is continuing the process to select an outside vendor to market and sell fiber and services to wholesale broadband providers. The original schedule called for the release of a Request for Proposals in the June/July timeframe; however, the solicitation is still in development. ICN is working towards a fall release. In the meantime, staff is responding to the strong interest for ICN fiber and services from wholesale providers.



When we applied for the broadband grant more than four years ago, we knew there was a need in Illinois for middle mile broadband services based on our own experience. We wholeheartedly believed in and embraced the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA)** requirement to operate as an open access network so that all providers would have equal access to the new fiber infrastructure. The ICN infrastructure covers a large portion of the state (55 counties) and provides downstate service providers with access to Chicago which serves as the Midwest's largest Internet peering location.

ICN has executed sales agreements with multiple wholesale providers who plan to expand their service offerings or improve their broadband speeds as a result of increasing access to middle mile broadband services. Staff are working with these providers to identify new opportunities to improve connectivity for our customers.

Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central



The Chicago Zoological Society (CZS), which manages Brookfield Zoo, and Bob Dulski, Director of Information Service of the CZS have been longtime customers of the ICN – about thirteen years. As is often the case with our customer, we interact with the technical staff, but rarely have an opportunity to speak with the people who are using the network to deliver a multitude of interesting applications.

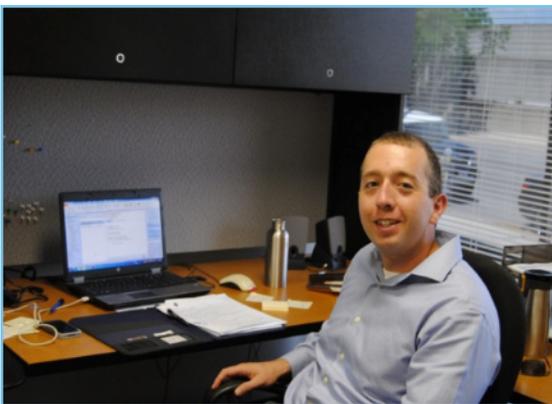
Tom Meehan, Vice President, Veterinary Services and Rita Stacey, Curator of Marine Mammals, provided us a completely different perspective on the use of Internet bandwidth, as they described the work they are doing with dolphins in their care, a veterinary residency program and a veterinary medicine practice. The CZS has partnered with the University of California San Diego to study Dolphin Social Attention in a Fission-Fusion Society. The data is then sent to scientists in San Diego for analysis.

Staff at Brookfield Zoo also partner with John G. Shedd Aquarium and the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) in offering a three-year Zoo and Aquatic Animal Medicine Residency program. Veterinary students from a variety of veterinary colleges also participate in undergraduate externships at the zoo. In addition, undergraduate coursework in zoological medicine is offered at the CVM in Urbana. Lectures, ultrasounds, CT Scans and 3-D Images are sent back and forth between the partner entities, Urbana and specialists around the country.

Increased bandwidth enabled by the broadband project will help these programs and others around Illinois grow and flourish keeping Illinois competitive from an educational, research and commercial standpoint for generations to come. According to Bob Dulski, the real benefit of working with the ICN is "...the ability to reach a live person via telephone who knows more than he does..." and "...the connectivity is rock solid...." We thank Bob and the CZS for their continued business and support!



Meet Tom Coats - Behind the Scenes with IBOP



Tom Coats joined the Bureau of Communication and Computer Services and the IBOP project in September 2011 after graduating from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and working as a gas pipeline engineer.

Tom's primary focus as a member of the IBOP team has been to manage the construction permitting process that has been successful in acquiring more than 450 construction permits. The permitting process can involve a simple phone call with a rural township road commissioner, a year long multi-step process with the City of Chicago, or working with the Army Corps of Engineers to install fiber under rivers and levees.

Tom's role has evolved into working with the contractors and consultants to solve problems that arise during construction. Tom really enjoys working with the ICN staff and "...has never worked with a group of people who truly enjoy their jobs and firmly believe in what they're doing..." to the extent that our staff does. He gives credit to everyone involved for making this project so successful and eagerly anticipates the finished project and the ways in which Illinois can start benefitting from the investment.

Illinois Century Network

Illinois Department of Central Management Services



Progress Legend	
	Planned Route
	Under Construction
	Completed
	Operational
	ICN POP Site
	ICN Equipment Site

