

Robust and secure network infrastructure flawlessly delivered for 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

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- Barry Caswell, Director of IT Operations and Security, VANOC

The customer

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC)

The need

Provide a reliable, scalable and highly available network combining Voice over IP (VoIP) and Unified Communications to present the 2010 Olympic Winter Games to the world.

The solution

Connectivity, Professional and Managed Network Solutions from Bell, including:

- Unified Internet Protocol-based fibre optic cable network
- Managed Firewall Services
- Managed Network Security for Content
- Business Continuity Consulting Service

The results

- First all-IP network in Games history
- 285-km fibre optic cable network connected Vancouver and Whistler to 130 venues and provided a legacy of enhanced broadband connectivity for British Columbia
- Anywhere/anytime access to network for more mobile workforce
- Increased efficiencies, reduced human error and maximum uptime through a centrally managed service



Olympians Charmaine Crooks (left) and Clara Hughes stay connected at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games on the Bell network.

Converging voice and data over one single network takes Games into the IP world

In February 2010, the world turned its attention to the Canadian cities of Vancouver and Whistler for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. VANOC was under tremendous pressure to present the Games to the world in a compelling and highly effective way.

As Canada's leading provider of information and communications technology (ICT) solutions to enterprises and governments, Bell understood this pressure and worked with VANOC's network specialists as a single cohesive unit.

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One of the biggest challenges faced by VANOC was the limited communication network between Vancouver and Whistler. In the past, Whistler had been treated as a recreational centre, not as a business centre, so there was little need for such a robust network infrastructure catering to athletes and spectators.

Bell stepped up to the challenge and developed a fibre optic network running along the Sea to Sky Highway, the major north-south route connecting the two municipalities. The network spanned 130 venues (akin to an enterprise with 130 branch offices) in Vancouver and Whistler including competitive venues, VANOC headquarters, data centres, media centres and athlete villages.

During the Games, every video signal between every venue and the International Broadcast Centre was carried over Bell's fibre optic network, as was every audio circuit broadcasters used to add commentary to their footage. In fact, more than 24,000 hours of broadcast coverage was delivered to more than 3.5 billion viewers around the world over the Bell network – the most in Olympic Games history and a 50-percent increase over the 2006 Winter Games in Torino and a 25-percent increase over the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing. The fibre optic network continues to provide a legacy of enhanced broadband connectivity for the province of British Columbia.

Real-time and reliable network access was another critical component for VANOC. Similar to a large bank or hospital needing a solid network to ensure zero glitches and zero downtime, the 2010 Olympic Winter Games required this same infrastructure to ensure athletes' times were captured immediately and that employees, volunteers and online visitors had continuous access to the network wherever they were.

Unlike previous Olympic Games, which were delivered with digital subscriber line (DSL) service, private branch exchange (PBX) and separate technical staff at each venue, Bell recommended converging all voice, data and Internet over a single network. The flexible and scalable unified Internet Protocol (IP) network meant less cabling, fewer switches, and reduced technical support, all of which lowered overall costs considerably. Just as voice-over-IP (VoIP) enables an enterprise to quickly bring on board a new branch office, Bell's 2010 Olympic Winter Games all-IP converged network meant voice line intelligence (voice, data, and wireless) was readily available for quick connection to the network as new venues were completed and equipment installed.

The entire IP network infrastructure was centrally managed by highly skilled managers who oversaw the operation of the entire network while paying attention to redundancy, security, high availability and business continuity planning. Consequently, VANOC increased efficiencies, reduced human error and maximized uptime.

Bell customers were big winners, too, as the network gave them access to the company's new high-speed HSPA/HSPA+ wireless network, Canada's fastest and largest network completed in time for the Games. It also offered mobile users across Canada a virtual front row seat to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games with live mobile Olympic coverage from seven television networks on Bell Mobility – a first in Olympic history.

"Thanks to Bell, the network was put in place faster than any host country before us," says Mr. Caswell. "This was also the first Games to build an entire network from scratch using state-of-the-art VoIP technology. From beginning to end, it was truly a gold-medal performance."

For more information contact your Bell representative or visit bell.ca/enterprise.



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