



NSF Mongolian Wireless Expedition: Bringing the Internet to Mongolia

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What we'll discuss

- Background of the project
- The Expedition
- Lessons Learned

Background

- NSF's role in increasing Internet access globally
 - ◆ <<http://www.nsf.gov/>>
 - ◆ GNET (Al Gore)
- NSF Wireless Field Test Project
 - ◆ <<http://wireless.oldcolo.com/>>
- NSF 'Innovative Connections to the Internet'
- NSF Mongolian Internet Initiative

NSF Mongolia POP

- Use PAMSAT and SprintNet
- Use private company rather than universities
- Pay for access not ground station
- Standalone operation in two years
- Installation in 12/95

Problems with Mongolian POP

- Local PSTN won't do the job
- Infrastructure problems
- Lack of local expertise
- Need for substitute for PSTN

The Expedition

- How we got there
- What we did there
- How we left

How we got there

- NSF grant to WFT Project
- State Dept. assist
- No site survey
- Choice of equipment
- The travel to there

What we did there

- Site Survey
- Meet the locals
- Deploy the equipment
- Make it work
- Make the locals understand there is no Santa

How we left

- Status of network
- Status of locals
- Getting back home alive

Lessons Learned

- The Internet is Wonderful!!!
- If you know how to use it...
- Current products won't address needs in country
- Current products won't scale well
- Make something that will work