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IPTV: Addressing Home Wiring Headaches

Siemens, Entone Work Leverages Current Coax Cabling

by Bob Wallace

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In a move designed to spare service providers – and their residential customers – the time, cost and disruption of rewiring to support IP video services Siemens today announced it has integrated Entone's set-top box into its home entertainment portfolio, enabling operators to use existing home coaxial cabling.

Entone says its Hydra set-top box also enables line sharing for simultaneous viewing and Internet access. The Hydra box supports up to three simultaneous video streams over a single digital subscriber line (DSL), fiber to the home, or Ethernet connection. The single box also supports high-speed data and telephone features, such as Caller ID.

Furthermore, the unit provides a RF remote allowing channel changing and control of the set top box throughout the home.

In addition to supporting Entone, Siemens also supports set-top boxes from vendors such as Amino Communications and Thomson.

The work between key players such as Siemens and Entone is part of a fast-evolving trend among equipment suppliers whom are partnering to provide service providers larger and integrated pieces of the IPTV package, much like Tier 1 suppliers do for automakers.

“The Surpass Home Entertainment solution, coupled with Entone's set-top box technology, provides broadband operators with a way to help avoid many of the costs and complexities involved with set-top boxes that require Ethernet cabling,” said Chris Coles, president and CEO of IPTV middleware leader Myrio Corp., a Siemens company, in prepared comments.

The Surpass portfolio's standards-based Java client provides portability across different CPU and operating system combinations, and with APIs to many IP TV applications, helps operators reduce time to market with new IPTV packages, Siemens says.

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