

Plethora Of Products At VoIP Show

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SEATTLE -- In his opening keynote, the sponsor of this week's Voice on the Net conference urged attendees to "innovate, rather than reiterate." Judging by the plethora of product announcements, many IP telephony vendors are already doing just that.

"My advice to people here is top build products and services that go against the flow," said Jeff Pulver, CEO of pulver.com, sponsor of the VON conferences. "If everybody is doing X, do Y. Go in the opposite direction."

About 100 vendors representing some 20 countries and about 2,000 attendees packed the tightly focused industry show.

"The marketplace has certainly been different and challenging, but it is cool to see so many companies come forward with new announcements and technologies," Pulver said. "It is pretty amazing to see so many people coming to market with some great products."

Here is a sampling of the announcements that actually hit the streets this week:

NMS Communications, a player in the emerging market for VoIP in mobile networks, demonstrated with Sun Microsystems and Oracle wireless, voice-enable applications for the NMS Hearsay. Those applications include voice-activated dialing, personal information management, personalized voice portals (news - web sites), short message services, unified messaging, chat, and conferencing.

Hellosoft gave IPPhone demos on an iPaq in Microsoft's exhibit area. Hellosoft showed how its HelloVoice Voice over Packer software turns the iPaq into a phone, allowing one 802.11 device to speak to another. The company says the software lets mobile device manufacturers that want to add voice capabilities in their products extend the functionality of their devices for voice communication over IP networks. RADVision also demonstrated in the Microsoft Pavilion, showing a videoconferencing solution for Windows XP (news - web sites).

Hughes Software Systems announced the launch of its SIP Server Framework, which provides proxy, registrar, redirect, and lookup functions. It is targeted at telecom equipment vendors, carrier, 3G, and enterprise networks.

CITEL Technologies discussed its CITELink Handset Gateway that allows legacy PBX telephone handsets to interconnect with IP-based network protocols and thus work with IP PBXs. The setup lets customers keep their handset telephone experience and receive a new IP telephony backbone.

Jasomi Networks showed a new product designed to help VoIP call carriers to meet the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, a federal law requiring telecom providers to upgrade networks so that law enforcement can conduct wiretaps. The company says the product creates a fixed point of call routing that will allow carriers to duplicate and forward call

information to enforcement agencies for wiretapping. It also prevents callers and call recipients from determining whether calls are being tapped, the company says.

Voice application developer Broadsoft showcased its flagship product Broadworks, which helps service providers deploy Web-enabled telephony services to enterprise customers.

Continuous Computing showcased its new SPARCblade IIe 500 product, a hot-swappable board based on the SPARC platform and used for telco applications such as VoIP. The company also demo'd its new upSuite high-availability technology.

GoAhead Software announced that release of its SelfReliant 2.0, the newest version of the company's Service Availability middleware.

Artesyn Technologies introduced version 2.0 of its media service platform called MediaBlade, which can be used in Voice over Packet conferencing systems and voice mail servers.

GoBeam released GoBeam Dashboard 2.0, a browser-based user interface that provides remote or home-office based employees with added control of their business communications from any Internet-connected PC.

Polycom said it would support SIP on its SoundPoint IP 500 desktop phones and SoundStation IP 3000 conference phones. Polycom demonstrated its SIP-enabled phones.

iTelco Communications announced the availability of IP 2.1, a VoIP-based conferencing and collaboration product for service providers.

PingTel introduced instant xpressa Enterprise, a SIP-based softphone for Windows PCs. Designed for road warriors and telecommuters, the IP voice softphone has many of the same features and qualities of the company's xpressa desk phone.

Gemini Voice Solutions announced that Pingtel xpressa offers certified interoperability with its Gemini Broadband Voice service.