

Toronto January 2023

The January 2023 Toronto Section meeting covered multicast network design and monitoring workflows within the broadcast and content distribution sectors of our industries. Multicast signal distribution is no doubt becoming more popular, and the concern often seems to be the apparent knowledge deficit, whether from someone with a broadcast background needing to know more about networking options or an IT professional needing to know more about broadcast signal requirements. Four presenters were invited to share their solutions for reliable multicast signal distribution.

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Ryan Morris from Arista Networks outlined the basics of multicast as well as concerns with either Layer 2 or 3 network implementations. Morris also described how a software-defined network can enable larger amounts of multicast flows to safely traverse the network.

Chris Lapp from Cisco described technologies for multisite multicast, including management of bandwidth awareness and sharing security policies between sites. Lapp also detailed how streams can be monitored at specific points within a network and then visualized or alarmed depending on requirements.

Stephen Shaw of Telestream shared some of his discoveries while troubleshooting networks dating back decades. He primarily discussed use cases in which testing and the ability to measure specific metrics at various points within a network assisted him in proving why issues were occurring



Chris Lapp discusses multisite multicast at the January Section meeting.

and what needed to be changed to resolve the issues.

Clint Sheridan from Rogers Communications talked about the history of monitoring a network that is tens of thousands of kilometers wide and sends out tens of thousands of multicast streams. He also talked about how collecting data from the many different devices involved is helping his team solve problems faster and with less guesswork.

—Nathan Bentley
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