



Caribbean Telecommunications Union

A Case Study:

Grenada Internet Exchange Point (GREX)

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History of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union

- **1989:** Established by CARICOM to be the inter-governmental telecommunications policy instrument for the Caribbean
- **2003:** Defined a new strategic direction to address issues of ICT development
- **2004:** Expanded Membership to include Private sector organisations
- **2007:** Entered into a strategic partnership with Packet Clearing House.

CTU's Mandate

- **Facilitating ICT Development**
- **ICT Policy Formulation**
- **ICT Capacity Building**
- **Representation at International fora**
- **Industry Watch**

The Internet - An Experiment Gone Wild

- *1969: US Government's Advanced Research Project Agency launches its country-wide communications network*
- *1986: Universities around North America and later research facilities in Europe were connected*
- *1989: Tim Berners Lee proposed world wide web*
- *1995: Internet was commercialised*

The rest is history

Early Challenges for Caribbean ISPs

- ISPs were unable to make a significant impact on the market because the former dominant service providers controlled the facilities for international connectivity and engaged in
 - Anti-competitive practices
 - Predatory pricing,
 - Delaying tactics,
 - Quality discrimination
- The result
 - Antagonistic environment
 - Little trust between competitors

The Grenada Environment

- Operators:
 - Columbus Communications (Flow)
 - Cable and Wireles
 - Digicel
- Other Stakeholders
 - St. Georges University
 - The Government
 - NTRC
 - Other Parties



Facilitating Action for Establishment of National IXPs - A Multi-Pronged Approach

- CTU and PCH launched a programme of
 - Stakeholder engagements
 - Public awareness building
 - Educating and training specific stakeholders
 - Building Trust
 - Informing Ministers

Features of the Approach

- Engaging multi-stakeholder participation
- Making Benefits clear to all
 - a national development issue
 - a mutually beneficial activity
 - efficiency, productivity, financial gains
- Engendering political will and action
- Using appropriate language
- Sharing information and experiences

Bringing Stakeholders Together

Public Awareness for General Audiences

Caribbean Internet Governance Fora
Caribbean ICT Roadshow
Articles and Publications

Bringing Stakeholders Together

Education and Training for Targetted Audiences

1-1 Meetings
Workshops
Symposia
Articles and Publications

Fostering Political Will

Ministerial Engagement

March, 2010

February, 2011

Formal and informal meetings with
Ministers

NTRC mandated to lead the process

Sustaining Action

Working team led by NTRC
Formulating Plans
Compromises
Publicity
Review, assess, adjust and proceed

GREX Timeline

Recognition of Need

- Sept 2008

Initial Stakeholder Meeting

- Sept 18th 2009

Government Intervention

- Feb 2010

Re-Mobilization of Stakeholders

- March 2010

Working Group Collaboration

- Mar 2010 - April 2011

Signing of MOU

- May 2011

Local Traffic Exchange Test

- 11 - 12 May 2011

Signing of Peering Agreement

- 12 May 2011

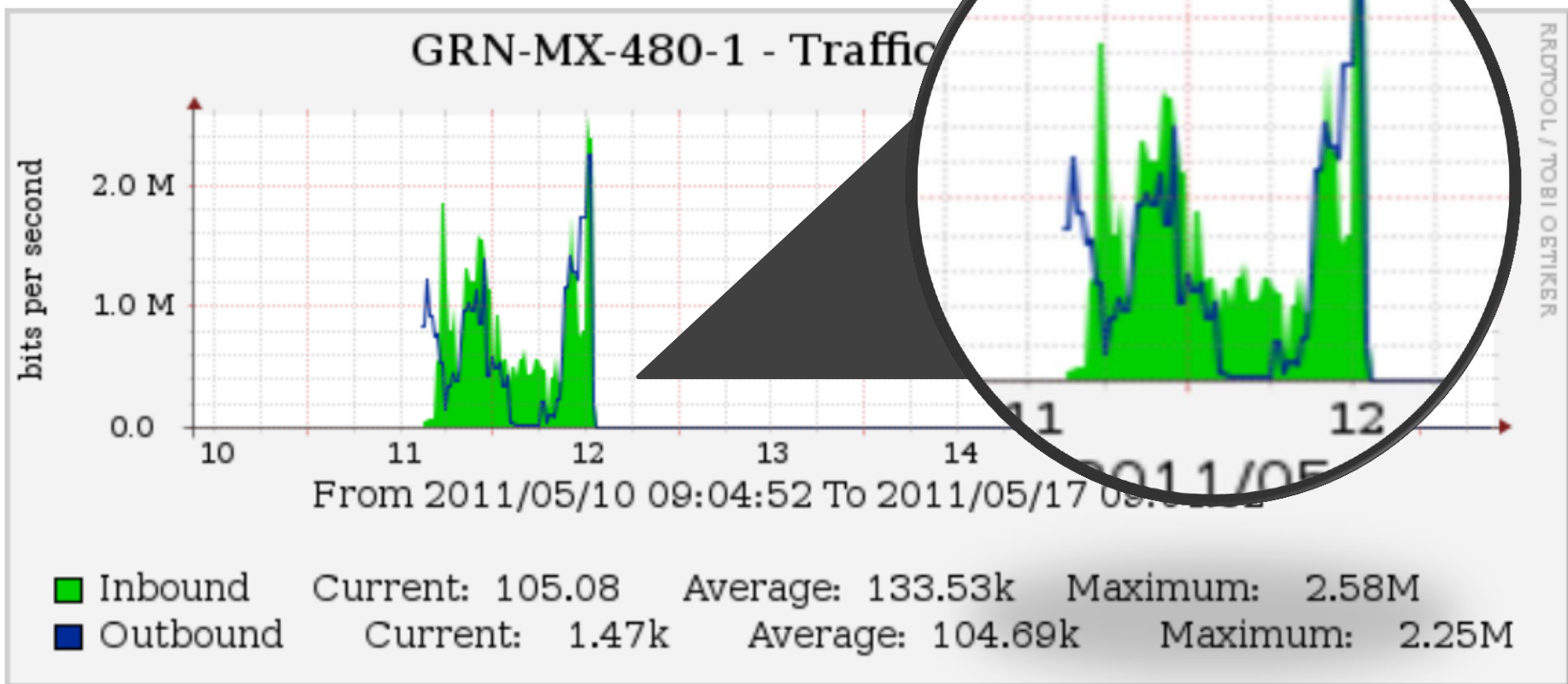
GREX Launch at TEXPO

- 17 May 2011

GREX Incorporation

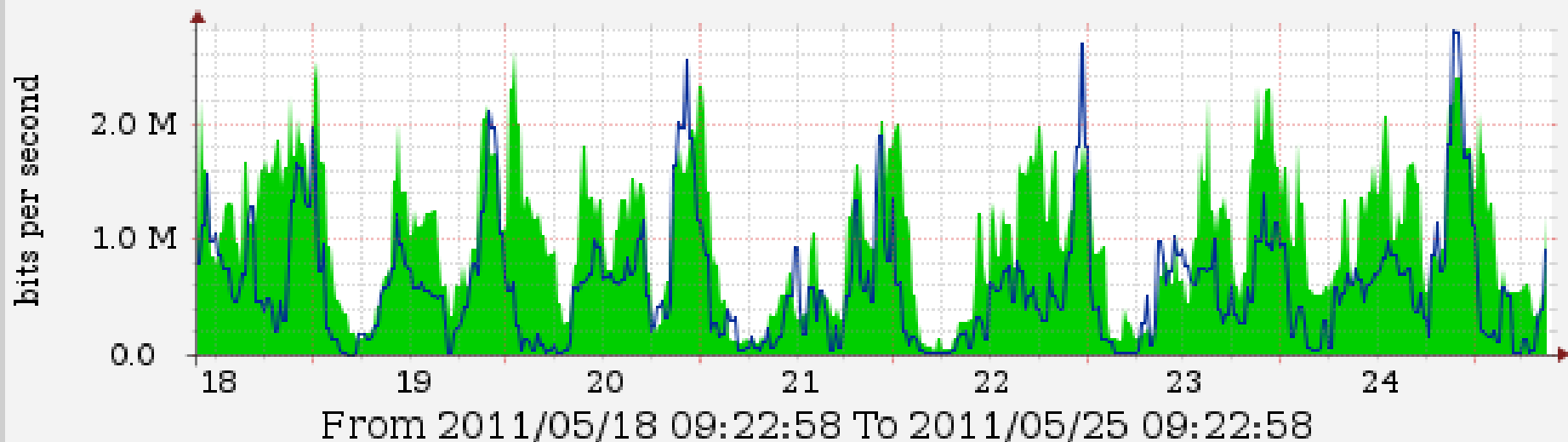
- Pending

Results



GREX Traffic: 17 - 27 May 2011

GRN-MX-480-1 - GREX IXP - ge-1/1/2



■ Inbound	Current: 1.18M	Average: 1.03M	Maximum: 2.61M
■ Outbound	Current: 901.12k	Average: 597.82k	Maximum: 2.81M

It takes time BUT

- The Minister is supportive
- There are willing Stakeholders
- GREX has set a precedent for the rest of the English Speaking Caribbean



Persevere

Thank you



Shaping Caribbean Communications

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