

IS VoIP A FRESH START?

I USED TO THINK SO, BUT . . .

- at AT&T, we struggle daily with VoIP equipment so new it barely works, yet fully equipped with all the quirks of the PSTN
- it's not just signaling and features—we are building 3kHz VoIP networks!

EVERYONE KNOWS THE REASONS:

- "it's an article of faith that VoIP should exactly mimic the present PBX and PSTN experience".....
- "one of the first tasks of a new technology is to prove that it can do everything the previous one could"
- today, VoIP is nearly useless if it cannot interoperate with the PSTN
- investments (e.g., in a 7kHz VoIP network) might not pay off soon enough

WHY I AM WORRIED:

- I am interested in properties like consistency, predictability, reliability, and security
- these properties are not achieved by adding mechanisms, they are achieved by taking them away
- taking bad mechanisms away is exactly the thing we can never seem to do in a legacy situation

presumably by those who see lower costs as its only justification

MY QUESTIONS:

Is there any hope of keeping VoIP out of a legacy straightjacket?

What can we do to improve the chances of it?