



VisionTEK Connections

January 2010

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VisionTEK Launches FrontLine Freedom Focus Group

VisionTEK recently launched a Focus Group review of our new product, FrontLine Freedom. Thanks to the interest and willingness of several close friends and colleagues, we have 25 real world users, participating in the Focus Group.

We determined that before we add the finishing touches to our FrontLine Freedom product suite, we need user feedback. So we asked associates, partners and our user community for an hour or two of their time to review FrontLine Freedom. In order for the product to be the best that it can be, it is imperative that we hear from people who reside outside the walls of VisionTEK. Upon completion of the Focus Group, we will review the comments and determine the changes that we need to make.

The Focus Group is scheduled to run for a few more days, so if you are interested in participating in this product review, please contact Sheri Sarno at ssarno@visiontekinc.com.

The process is simple – you will access the website www.frontlinefreedom.com, review its content, request a free trial and then play with the software. That's it!

Updates on the Colorado State Switch Replacement Project

Attention Colorado Customers: Justyn Davidson, VisionTEK Director of Customer Satisfaction is the VisionTEK point of contact for your testing efforts of the replacement Colorado Crime Information Switch (CCIS). During a status meeting this week, Justyn provided the following information on the integration testing efforts to date.

Project Managers from the CCIS Project are in the process of scheduling connectivity testing efforts with Colorado law enforcement agencies (LEA) as part of the State's System Integration Test (SIT) Plan. The testing is being coordinated directly between the State and the LEA; VisionTEK will be available to assist in configuration changes and to examine issues during testing. When you begin testing discussions with the State, please contact Justyn Davidson so we are apprised of your test plans. He will ensure VisionTEK support personnel are on standby and ready to assist in any way possible during your integration test.



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Thus far, VisionTEK supported SIT with one of our Colorado customers. The test was successful with respect to verifying connectivity; however there were issues regarding query response formats. The issues have been reported to the State and CPI (switch vendor).

Please feel free to contact Justyn Davidson or Julie Germond (CCIS lead Project Manager) directly for questions regarding the CCIS replacement project and SIT.

The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing

Authors: Peter Mell and Tim Grance
Version 15, 10-7-09

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Information Technology Laboratory

Note 1: Cloud computing is still an evolving paradigm. Its definitions, use cases, underlying technologies, issues, risks, and benefits will be refined in a spirited debate by the public and private sectors. These definitions, attributes, and characteristics will evolve and change over time.

Note 2: The cloud computing industry represents a large ecosystem of many models, vendors, and market niches. This definition attempts to encompass all of the various cloud approaches.

Definition of Cloud Computing:

Cloud computing is a model for enabling convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction. This cloud model promotes availability and is composed of five essential **characteristics**, three **service models**, and four **deployment models**.

Essential Characteristics:

On-demand self-service. A consumer can unilaterally provision computing capabilities, such as server time and network storage, as needed automatically without requiring human interaction with each service's provider.

Broad network access. Capabilities are available over the network and accessed through standard mechanisms that promote use by heterogeneous thin or thick client platforms (e.g., mobile phones, laptops, and PDAs).

Resource pooling. The provider's computing resources are pooled to serve multiple consumers using a multi-tenant model, with different physical and virtual resources dynamically assigned and reassigned according to consumer demand. There is a sense of location independence in that the customer generally has no control or

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knowledge over the exact location of the provided resources but may be able to specify location at a higher level of abstraction (e.g., country, state, or datacenter). Examples of resources include storage, processing, memory, network bandwidth, and virtual machines.

Rapid elasticity. Capabilities can be rapidly and elastically provisioned, in some cases automatically, to quickly scale out and rapidly released to quickly scale in. To the consumer, the capabilities available for provisioning often appear to be unlimited and can be purchased in any quantity at any time.

Measured Service. Cloud systems automatically control and optimize resource use by leveraging a metering capability at some level of abstraction appropriate to the type of service (e.g., storage, processing, bandwidth, and active user accounts). Resource usage can be monitored, controlled, and reported providing transparency for both the provider and consumer of the utilized service.

Service Models:

Cloud Software as a Service (SaaS). The capability provided to the consumer is to use the provider's applications running on a cloud infrastructure. The applications are accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a web browser (e.g., web-based email). The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure including network, servers, operating systems, storage, or even individual application capabilities, with the possible exception of limited user-specific application configuration settings.

Cloud Platform as a Service (PaaS). The capability provided to the consumer is to deploy onto the cloud infrastructure consumer-created or acquired applications created using programming languages and tools supported by the provider. The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure including network, servers, operating systems, or storage, but has control over the deployed applications and possibly application hosting environment configurations.

Cloud Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). The capability provided to the consumer is to provision processing, storage, networks, and other fundamental computing resources where the consumer is able to deploy and run arbitrary software, which can include operating systems and applications. The consumer does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure but has control over operating systems, storage, deployed applications, and possibly limited control of select networking components (e.g., host firewalls).

Deployment Models:

Private cloud. The cloud infrastructure is operated solely for an organization. It may be managed by the organization or a third party and may exist on premise or off premise.

Community cloud. The cloud infrastructure is shared by several organizations and supports a specific community that has shared concerns (e.g., mission, security requirements, policy, and compliance considerations). It may be managed by the organizations or a third party and may exist on premise or off premise.

Public cloud. The cloud infrastructure is made available to the general public or a large industry group and is owned by an organization selling cloud services.

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Hybrid cloud. The cloud infrastructure is a composition of two or more clouds (private, community, or public) that remain unique entities but are bound together by standardized or proprietary technology that enables data and application portability (e.g., cloud bursting for load-balancing between clouds).

Note 3: Cloud software takes full advantage of the cloud paradigm by being service oriented with a focus on statelessness, low coupling, modularity, and semantic interoperability.

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NIST Cloud Computing Project Lead: Peter Mell

<http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/SNS/cloud-computing/cloud-def-v15.doc>

Have you met Glen Rhodes?

Glen Rhodes, Senior Software Engineer

Allow me to introduce you to Glen Rhodes, VisionTEK Senior Software Engineer.



Glen joined VisionTEK as a Software Engineer in 2000, and now has nearly twelve years of public safety software development experience. In his current position, Glen is responsible for leading the development of VisionTEK software products, including extensive involvement with the new FrontLine Freedom product suite. Glen leads other VisionTEK developers through the implementation and development cycles on many complex engineering projects. In this key role he analyzes, designs, implements and documents new functionality and features for VisionTEK products, ensuring high quality deliverables. Prior to VisionTEK, Glen was a Project Lead and Software Engineer for HTE-UCS, Inc. Glen earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Regis University, Denver, CO.

In addition to his many talents as a Software Engineer, Glen is well known (at least within the walls of VisionTEK), for his fabulous Green Chili. Glen shared first place honors with Randy Pierce (another VT Senior Software Engineer) in this year's annual Chili Cook-off. If you ask nicely, he may share his secret recipe with you!



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VisionTEK 2010 Holiday Schedule

VisionTEK will be closed on the following days in observance of our national holidays:

New Year's Day	Friday, January 1 st
President's Day	Monday, February 15 th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31 st
Independence Day Observed	Monday, July 5 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 6 th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 25 th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 26 th
Christmas Day Observed	Friday, December 24 th
New Year's Day Observed	Friday, December 31 st

VisionTEK customers may contact after-hours support personnel for assistance with critical issues, during company holidays. Please call the answering service at **866.977.9062**.