

Ralph Yost Biographical Information

Long version:

Ralph Yost is the Program Manager for Airborne Internet at the Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center. He is an electrical engineer in the Research & Technology Division. Yost has over 28 years experience in aviation and communications systems as a federal government engineer. He has performed electromagnetic compatibility testing, worked on landing systems, surveillance systems, navigation systems, and communications systems. He is the former Test Director for Telecommunications for the FAA.

Since June 1999, Yost has been working on the advancement of a new aviation communications system called "Airborne Internet," a concept suggesting an open system scalable architecture based on TCP/IP to provide a robust datalink (i.e. a general purpose, multi-application data channel) for all communications, navigation and surveillance exchanges.

Mr. Yost has been a leader in forming a public-private consortium developing the Airborne Internet. The Airborne Internet Consortium (AIC) has begun to consider new ways to use spectrum where messaging can be prioritized and optimized around user dictated characteristics (safety of flight, cost, etc).

Mr. Yost obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn NY. He is a life member of Eta Kappa Nu, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society. He holds a Master's Degree in Aviation Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a Certified Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer from the National Association of Radio & Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE). Mr. Yost is a licensed pilot with instrument and sea plane ratings. He is an avid fisherman and has a captain's license.

Short version:

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Here is a summary of my presentation:

Ralph Yost's briefing will describe a new and rapidly growing concept for aviation called "Airborne Internet". Airborne Internet is an open system architecture based on the same technologies used by the Internet to provide a general purpose, multi-application data channel for aviation. He will describe the recent success of his research program as well as what the future holds for state of the art in network connectivity in aviation.