Resolving the Digital Divide for Native Communities
Defining an Approach

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• Federal/State/Tribal/Private Efforts needed to address issues

• Efforts must focus on viable economic development activities
  - Economic factors drive development in IT
  - Tribal efforts in this area must be economically viable and sustainable over the long-haul
Closing the Divide

• The Federal Communications Commission has initiated proceedings to explore solutions to the lack of infrastructure

• Tribal governments must assess community needs and establish a plan for encouraging tribal participation in the information economy
  - Tribal Technology Assessment
  - Up-Skilling Tribal Members (Tribal Geek Movement)
Sources of the Divide

• Insufficient Infrastructure
  - Many tribal communities do not have the telecommunications infrastructure necessary to support participation in the information economy

• Economic and Other Barriers
  - Even when the infrastructure is available, services are not affordable to the average individual
  - Tribal Communities often do not have sufficient resources to support participation in the information economy (educational, business, etc.)
Defining the Divide

• What services and opportunities are we trying to ensure?
  • Access to Telephones
  • Internet Access
  • Computer Skills
  • What Else?