

**Beyond Standards:
Business and Social Implications of Telecommunications Standards**

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Abstract:

There are both technological and economic changes in the communications infrastructure. These changes make standards setting difficult in a post-monopoly world. The macroeconomic implications of communications infrastructure are critical to developing nations, and to developed economies. At microeconomic level, we see these same forces at work in the build out of new competitive carriers, and in startup companies with new ideas. Standards setting issues carry with them challenges to both the micro and mega capital formation necessary to build out the new infrastructure, and to define and develop the new infrastructure. This presentation considers how standards can help or hinder economic progress. The author explores how chaotic growth makes the engineering and systems implications of standards setting for economic growth largely unknowable, but at the same time crucial.