

Expander Precision puts event communications into a whole new gear at the Mountain Bike World Championships



September 2007

When 700 riders from 49 nations, 40,000 spectators and an army of journalists all arrived at an otherwise more sedate Fort William in the Scottish Highlands, it could only mean one thing... The UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships had come to town!



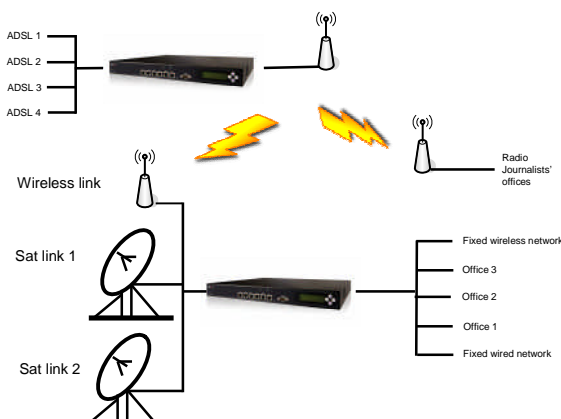
Regarded as the single-most important event in the mountain bike calendar, 19 riders were crowned world champions throughout six days of events which were kicked off by an exciting opening ceremony on 4th September 2007.

The Communications Challenge

With millions of biking enthusiasts the world over hungry for the latest news of their favourite riders, the 400-strong team of journalists from all types of media needed a communications network on which they could depend to deliver the latest video, audio, photographic and editorial content back to their publishers and media networks.

With conventional Internet connectivity unavailable on Ben Nevis and the surrounding area, UCI event organisers used two satellite broadband links to provide connectivity in remote locations, whilst four standard ADSL links were used back at base camp. This WAN (Wide Area Network) served both the event management office and the 400 journalists.

But how could the organisers be sure this level of bandwidth would be adequate to meet the demands of all the users? And what would happen at times when really high volumes of voice and data traffic were being generated, just as the winner of a specific event is announced for example? Could the network provide the resilience the organisers needed to ensure reliable transmission of all the voice and data traffic generated?



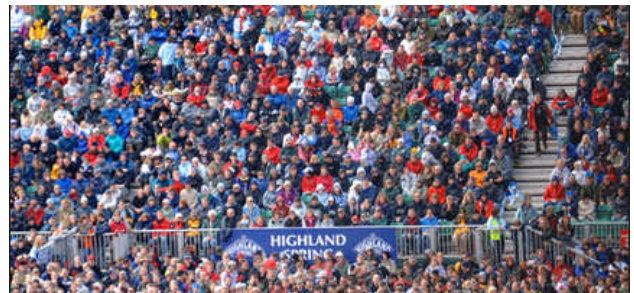
The DBAM Solution: Two EP600 Appliances

UCI chose DBAM to help ensure network resilience and continuity of service by adding two Expander Precision EP600 appliances to their network.

The first EP600 provided load balancing between the four ADSL links, so even if one of the links were to fail, the traffic would be automatically redirected through the other available links ensuring that service could be maintained. A defined portion of this bandwidth was allocated specifically to radio journalists, whilst the remainder was used in combination with the two satellite links to provide Internet connectivity for the event management offices and press journalists. The satellite links were also load balanced by the second EP600.

Thanks to the completely configurable nature of the EP600, traffic shaping rules were applied to the overall system in line with the organiser's specifications in order to:

- Ensure radio journalists receive priority bandwidth allocation from the ADSL links (EP600 No 1)
- Ensure press journalists receive priority bandwidth from the ADSL and satellite links (EP600 No 2)
- Manage the links to ensure different protocols utilise the most suitable link (e.g. http via satellite leaving the ADSL lines for SMTP and FTP traffic).



Dave Weale of UCI's IT Department was delighted with the solution. "DBAM's Expander Precision appliances were the only products that provided the necessary functionality we needed for this project. Without doubt, DBAM's EP products provided the most cost effective solution for the event" he said.

Howard Bedford, Sales Director of DBAM said "The UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships installation exemplifies how quickly and easily our EP products can be installed. They immediately resolve otherwise difficult technical implementation issues, whilst ensuring quality links for mission critical bandwidth usage".

For more information about the Championship, visit <http://www.fortwilliamworldchamps.co.uk>.
For more information about DBAM and EP Products, visit www.dbamsystems.com.

DBAM Systems Ltd, 03/09/07, Tel: +44 (0)1924 887081.