

Testing the Calm Before the Storm

BY MONICA ALLEVEN

A lot of testing is going on to see who's got the best network performance, and attendees at the CTIA show are no exception. Global Wireless Solutions (GWS) performed tests on Monday to measure the network performance of the major national wireless carriers in and around the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center before thousands of conventioners convene.

The tests provide a baseline of the (expected) relatively unloaded wireless networks before the start of CTIA Wireless 2012.

GWS performed indoor testing within the convention center using a SwissQual Ranger platform capable of testing four voice and four data networks simultaneously. (Actually, Jason Rhodes of GWS wore a 30-pound backpack equipped with four commercially



Global Wireless Solutions (GWS) uses handsets from the four major operators to test voice and data services in and around the convention center.

available phones and mini-computers to conduct the tests. Apparently, he doesn't mind carrying a lot of weight on his shoulders.)

The indoor testing included AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile USA and Verizon Wireless. GWS also deployed a van testing along the roadways surrounding the convention center. The van was outfitted with a SwissQual Diversity unit testing the same four voice and four data networks as well as the Clear data network.

Inside the convention center, the

success rate of the voice networks was perfect for AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile, while Verizon failed one call. In terms of data, download throughput tests showed that Verizon's LTE network was the leader of the pack. Behind Verizon, T-Mobile's dual-carrier HSPA beat out AT&T's LTE network. Sprint's EV-DO results rounded out the pack. However, upload throughput tests place AT&T well above T-Mobile. AT&T was the only network to fail multiple tasks indoors.

During the outdoor drive testing, AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon did not have any voice failures, whereas Sprint dropped one call. The Verizon and AT&T LTE networks were in the top tier on download throughput, with T-Mobile and Clear rounding out the second tier. All the carriers failed at least one task attempt during the testing. ●

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