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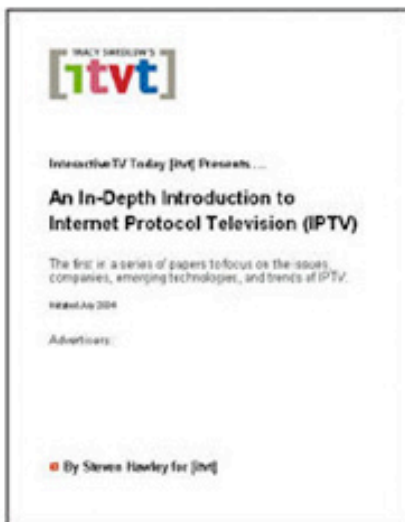
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 Vidiom to Hold 3-Day "OCAP API Essentials" Course at its SNOCAP Summit

[more]

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VIDIOM SYSTEMS presents SNOCAP '05. Join Vidiom in Breckenridge, Colorado February 1-3, 2005 for the industry's only 3-day technical OCAP™ training course – OCAP API Essentials. Learn about OCAP middleware, applications, host, and network requirements from Vidiom's OCAP experts and experience the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Register today at <http://www.vidiom.com> Seating is limited for this special event. See you at SNOCAP '05!

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[events]

**Vidiom to Hold 3-Day "OCAP API Essentials" Course at its SNOCAP Summit**

**OpenCable Application Platform (OCAP) specialist, Vidiom Systems, will hold its annual technology summit, dubbed "SNOCAP," at the Great Divide Lodge in the Rocky Mountain ski resort of Breckenridge, Colorado, February 1st through 3rd.** (Note: the company, which regularly offers courses on OCAP at its facilities and at tradeshow such as the NCTA, has been involved in the development of OCAP since 1998. Its more recent activities in the OCAP space include: 1) a contract with OCAP Development LLC to create an OCAP implementation for deployment on Time Warner and Comcast networks; 2) its involvement in the development of OnRamp to OCAP, a Java-based API standard designed to enable ITV applications capable of running both on advanced, OCAP-enabled set-top boxes, and on the low-end set-top boxes that have been widely deployed by US cable operators; and 3) its participation in the OCAP Application Development Contest which was launched at the JavaOne conference in San Francisco last year, and which is designed to encourage active participation of the Java development community in the ITV market.)



The centerpiece of the event will be a 3-day course on "OCAP API Essentials" that will be targeted at cable television engineers (participants should have at least some knowledge of Java programming, and an understanding of digital set-top boxes and the other main elements of ITV-enabled cable systems). The course will be taught by a team of Vidiom personnel who, the company says, have been directly involved in developing and revising the OCAP specification itself, in writing the OCAP middleware stack, or in developing OCAP applications. According to Vidiom's manager of training and support, Amanda Jervis, the course "is intended to provide a roadmap of the larger issues involved in an OpenCable deployment, and to provide details about the OCAP API's. Having it be a 3-day course," she added, "gives us time to present the modules and lessons in more depth, to examine code examples that use the OCAP API's, and to discuss

issues relevant to the participants' particular situations."

Elements of the course include "OCAP Overview," which introduces the basic components of the OCAP platform (provides an overview of OCAP middleware and applications, OpenCable devices, network architecture, and OCAP testing and certification); "OCAP Network Requirements," which examines the network protocols needed to support OCAP applications (provides information on application certificates and signaling, application delivery, AIT and XAIT tables, loading files on the network, application security, application registration, 3rd-party application servers, OCAP object carousels and OCAP Network API's); "Host 2.0 Devices," which examines requirements for host 2.0 devices (provides information on transport protocol requirements, the DOCSIS 2-way channel, communication signaling, CableCard SAS, return channels, Java Virtual Machine and native applications); "OCAP Middleware," which examines the OCAP middleware API's used to launch applications (provides information on loading applications, service information management, service list, service context, abstract services, application management, application signaling, and file management and storage); "OCAP Applications," which examines application types, Xlets, and security (provides information on bound and unbound applications, native/resident applications, application certificates, Xlets and their lifecycle, launching applications, application security, and application authentication); "Monitor Application," which discusses the purpose and features of this app (provides information on application lifecycle management, remote control key management, closed captioning and EAS, enhanced monitor application functions, permissions, resource management, and contention management); and "Application Control," which examines the OCAP API's used to control applications (provides information on working with graphics, HAVI UI API's, AWT API's, transparency control, font management, audio/video control, content formats, MPEG I-frame support, OCAP-defined events, user event management, the AWT event model, the DVB event model, and monitor application event filtering).

Each day of the course will close with a roundtable discussion of a topic of interest to participants. Vidiom will videoconference in experts to answer questions that arise in the discussion: "If testing and certification is of concern to the participants, we can videoconference in our testing team to answer questions about the OCAP Automated Test Environment and test suite," Jervis explained. In order to ensure that the course can address all the issues that are of concern to the individual participants, participation is limited to just 15 (when the course fills up--Jervis told us that only a few spots are left--Vidiom will set up a waiting list; the company will also offer the course again, April 26th through 28th, at its headquarters near Boulder, Colorado, and will provide a discount to engineers who sign up for it before the SNOCAP event).

Vidiom is stressing that the course will not be used as an opportunity to pitch the company's products and services: "When people call up and are interested in the course, one of the questions they always ask is 'Is this just an opportunity for Vidiom to push your products and services?,'" Jervis said. "On the contrary, we've designed this course consciously for education, not promotion. Vidiom has championed OCAP since 1998, and as an educator, I personally insist on instruction over marketing. Our past participants have added unsolicited comments in their evaluations, remarking that they appreciate our singular focus on OpenCable and OCAP." The company is also eager to point out that SNOCAP provides an opportunity to socialize with one's peers: "The focus of SNOCAP is education, but that doesn't mean we won't have some fun," Jervis said. "The event gives us an opportunity to share our love of our backyard, the Rocky Mountains, with our cable colleagues. Participants can ski or ride Monday or Friday [i.e., the day before and the day after the OCAP API Essentials course], and Breckenridge offers many other diversions for those who just want to get away from the bustle of the city to enjoy the peacefulness of the high country. In addition, we'll be hosting a cocktail reception on February 1st that will provide a chance to mingle with fellow course participants in a more casual setting, and we'll also help participants arrange other activities in Breckenridge Monday and Wednesday evenings."

While the OCAP API Essentials course will follow a lecture format, Jervis told us that Vidiom is considering offering a "hands-on," 5-day computer-based course in the future in which participants will learn how to write OCAP applications: "While the primary audience for our courses to date has been engineers from consumer electronics companies, we've been finding that application developers are increasingly interested in the courses," she said. "As more OCAP-enabled devices become available and more cable networks are upgraded to be OCAP-compliant, it's to be expected that the next set of people who are going to be interested in OCAP are the ones who are writing applications. We'll expand our offering

at that point to include a course specifically for people who want to write interactive TV applications that are OCAP-compliant."

For more information on SNOCAP and the OCAP API Essentials course, go to Vidiom's Web site: [www.vidiom.com](http://www.vidiom.com).

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- \*Began Publishing June 1998
- \*Read in over 100 countries
- \*Demographics are provided upon request from qualified persons

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