# Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP)

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Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
December 19, 2006







- Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan
- Communications Asset System Mapping-CASM tool

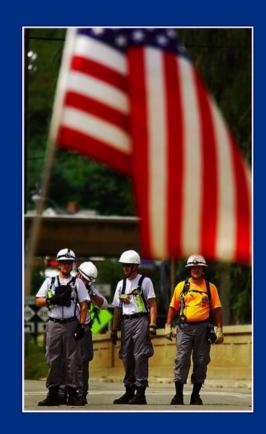


# Tactical Interoperability (Elements)

Interoperable Communications

Technical Assistance Program

- Must be rapidly deployable at any time (24/7)
- Should be fully operational within an hour of an incident occurring.
- Requires oversight by trained Communications Unit Leaders, as defined within the NIMS, to support equipment deployment.
- May be provided through the use of common equipment (common channels, cached radios or shared systems) or a gateway between dissimilar systems and/or radio frequency bands.
- Should always be in support of long-term interoperability by building upon or accelerating long-term strategies and efforts.





## Tactical Plan Components



- Site Overview
- Governance Structure
- Interoperable Equipment
- Equipment Policies and Procedures
- Incident Communications Resource
   Plan

Based on Exercise Scenario

Trained Communications Unit Leaders

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of State and Local Government
Coordination and Preparedness
Tactical Interoperable Communications
Planning Guidance and Template



March 2005



# Developing a Tactical Plan







# Site Overview



- Provide a brief overview of the metropolitan area and its efforts in addressing interoperable communications. Consider all communications interoperability goals and objectives included in the any strategic planning done prior. Any challenges faced to date with communications should also be included
- List all agencies represented in the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan.



#### Governance Structure



#### **Steering Committee**

#### **Operational Working Group:**

Responsible for determining operational and training requirements

- Reviewing existing SOPs and apply as appropriate to anticipated incidents.
- Developing formal written guidelines and checklists (SOPs), preferably by type of incident
- Ensuring that SOPs and checklists follow ICS/NIMS standards.
- Coordinating agency participating in NIMS Communication Unit Leader training.
- Coordinating with Technical Working Group as appropriate to include technical guidelines and checklists into written plans.

#### **Technical Working Group:**

Responsible for identifying existing interoperable equipment and methods

- Evaluating alternative solutions to address unmet needs for communications interoperability during potential incident types.
- Reviewing potential solutions with the Operational Working Group to identify the most appropriate ones for anticipated types of incidents
- Prepare solution recommendations and budgets for adoption by the Governance Group.







- Collect pertinent information on interoperable equipment
  - Cached Radios
  - Gateways
  - Shared Channels
  - Shared Systems
- ICTAP can meet with agency POCs to confirm the required data have been have collected.
- Following TICP development, data can be updated as needed to keep the plan current



# Equipment Policies & Procedures



- Should be documented / developed for all interoperable equipment in the jurisdiction
- Policies will address operational aspects such as:
  - Rules of Use
  - Interoperable Communications Request
  - Equipment Activation
  - Equipment Deactivation
  - Problem ID and Resolution
- ICTAP can facilitate meetings to develop policies and provide examples from other agencies.





#### Incident Communications Resource Plan



- Detail what method or specific interoperability resources will be used for multi-agency communications during an incident
- Plan will address communications for the following specific ICS subdivisions
  - Incident Command and General Staff
  - Operations Section
  - Planning Section
  - Logistics Section
- ICTAP can facilitate meetings to develop plan based on analysis of equipment lists and policies/ procedures.





# Trained Communications Unit Leaders



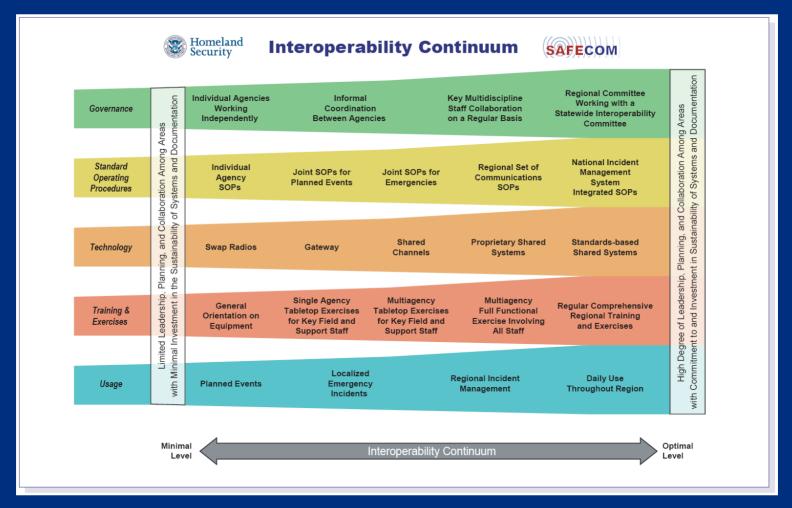
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance
- Currently only National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training available for this function
- All-hazards training under development by
  - Office of Grants and Training
  - SAFECOM
  - NIMS Integration Center





#### SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum







## Interoperability Performance Measures



	Baseline Assessment Sub-Element
Governance	Leadership
	Decision-making Groups
	Agreements
	Interoperability Funding
	Strategic Planning
Standard Operating Procedures	Policy, Practices, and Procedures
	Command and Control
Technology	Approaches
	Implementation
	Maintenance and Support
Training and Exercises	Operator Training
	Exercises
Usage	Frequency of Use and Familiarity





# Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program ICTAP

Communication Asset
Modeling Tool
(CASM) Overview



# CASM Functionality



- Inventory existing interoperable communications equipment, procedures, and capabilities
- Map interoperable communications capabilities and methods
- Conduct a communications gap analysis
- Model current & proposed interoperable communications



Needs Analysis Services



#### **CASM**



- USERS: 45 urban areas and states, and more than 730 accounts, covering over 2,500 jurisdictions and 5,000 agencies at local, state and federal levels
- **IMPACT:** One example is the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The data collected for CASM was the single readily available source of information on communications antenna towers.

**DURATION:** Development of CASM began in August 2004; it was released for initial use July 18, 2005.



# Communication Asset System Mapping (CASM) Tool

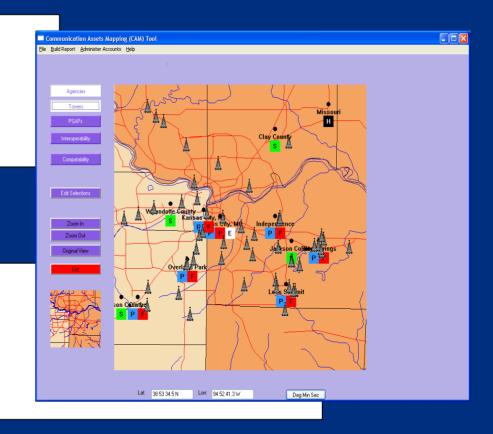


#### **Developed For:**

- Urban Area
- Spawar System Center SD
- Site Leads/Engineers & ODP

#### **Functionality**

- Ease of use
- Display of Asset Inventory
- Display Interoperability





#### **CASM** – Features



#### Features / Benefits:

- Visualization of Agencies, Radio Systems and Tower locations for an Urban Area in a geographic map representation.
- Agency icons reflect the highest level of interoperability they utilize.
- Agency's interoperability status uses the SafeCom Interoperability Continuum.
  - Swap radios, mutual aid channels, gateways, etc.







#### Features / Benefits:

- Pop-Up windows provide detailed information about agencies, radio systems, towers and interoperability for each icon.
- Compatibility Tool shows communication interoperability between two selected agencies.
  - A pop-up window will identify the potential method(s) of interoperability.
- UA Interoperability Matrix showing highest level of interoperability that is possible between all agencies in a matrix presentation.







#### Needs Addressed:

- Inventory Display
- Geophysically review radio system information
- Quick view of Interoperability Status
- Display of agency interoperability







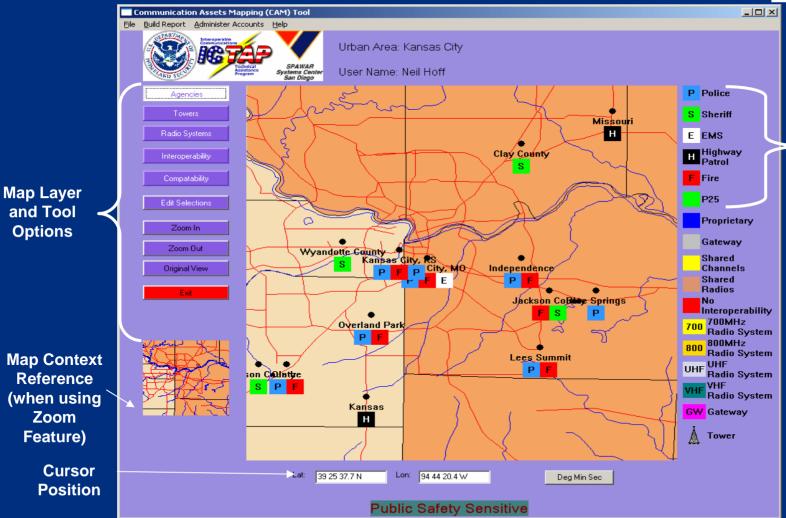
#### **Delivery Mechanism:**

- Web-enabled Application
- Application downloads to user
- Requires an internet connection
- Application connects to SSC-SD
  - Database and map server at SSC-SD
  - Requires user ID and password
- Standalone PC version is also being considered/evaluated



#### **CASM** – Initial View



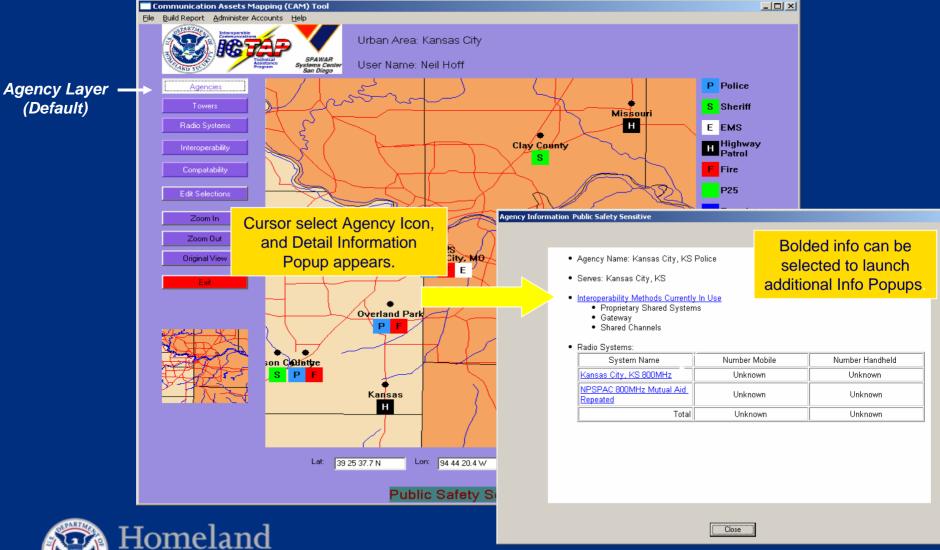


Agency Icon Legend

Homeland Security

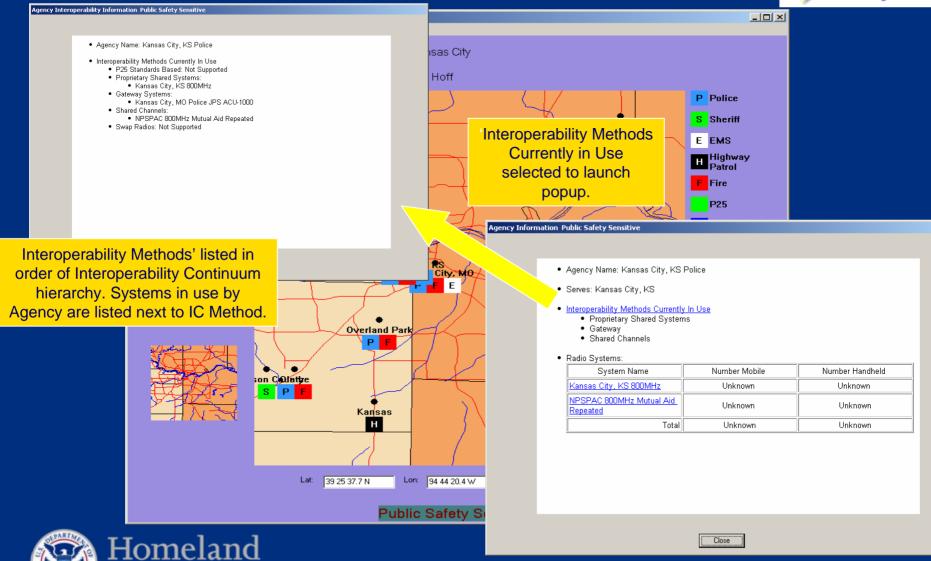
## **CASM** – Agency Detail





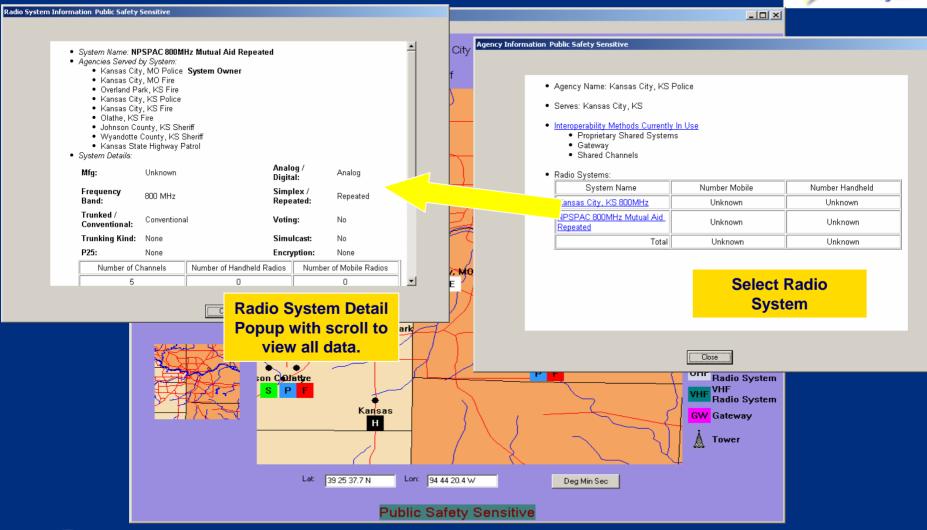
# CASM – Agency Detail Pop-up (Interoperability Methods Info)





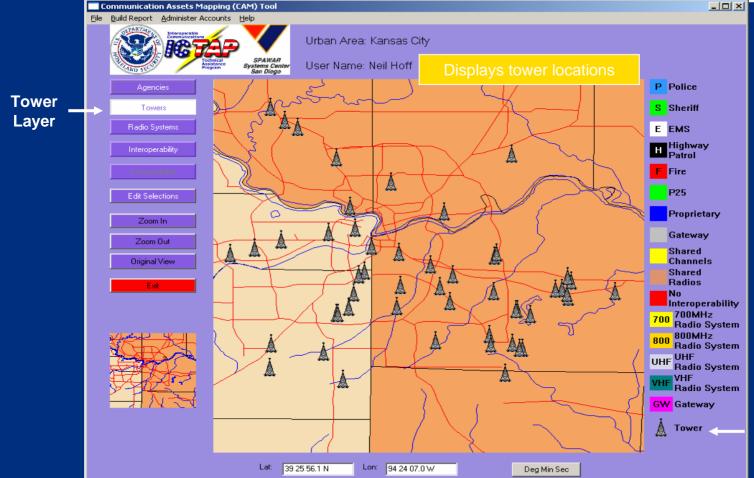
#### CASM – Agency Detail Pop-ups (Radio System and Tower Info)





## CASM – Tower View





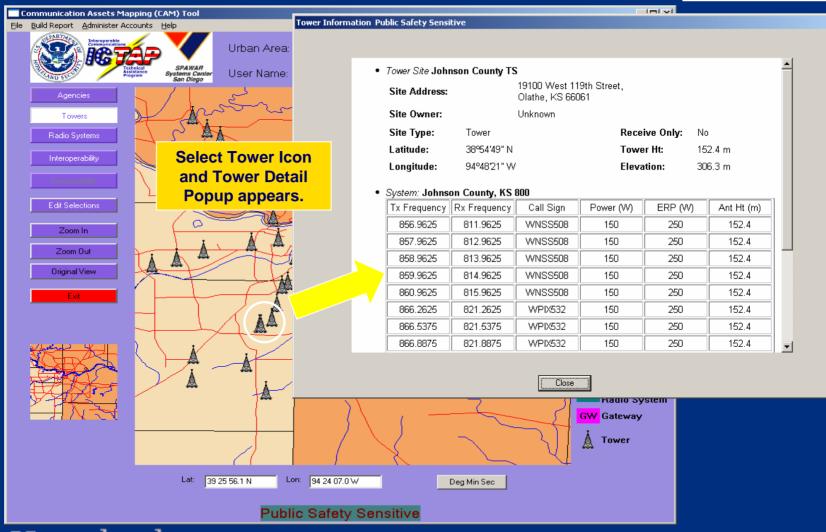
Public Safety Sensitive





# CASM – Tower Detail Pop-up

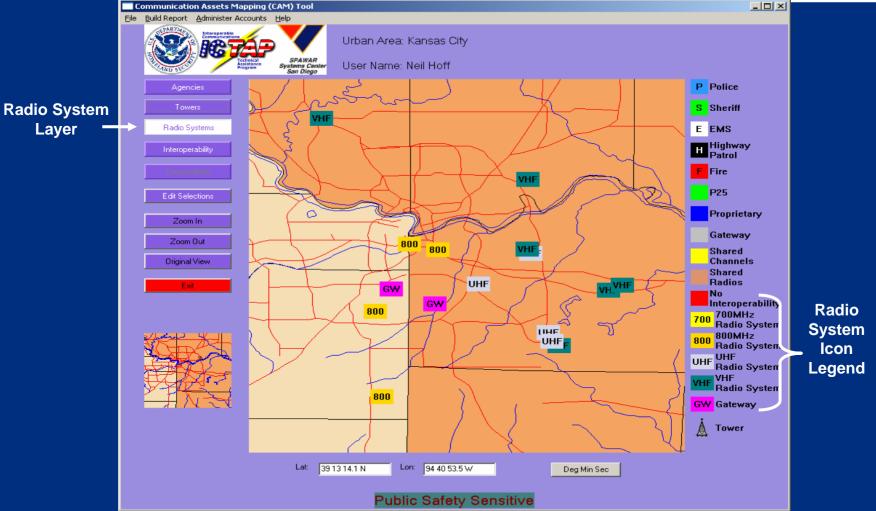






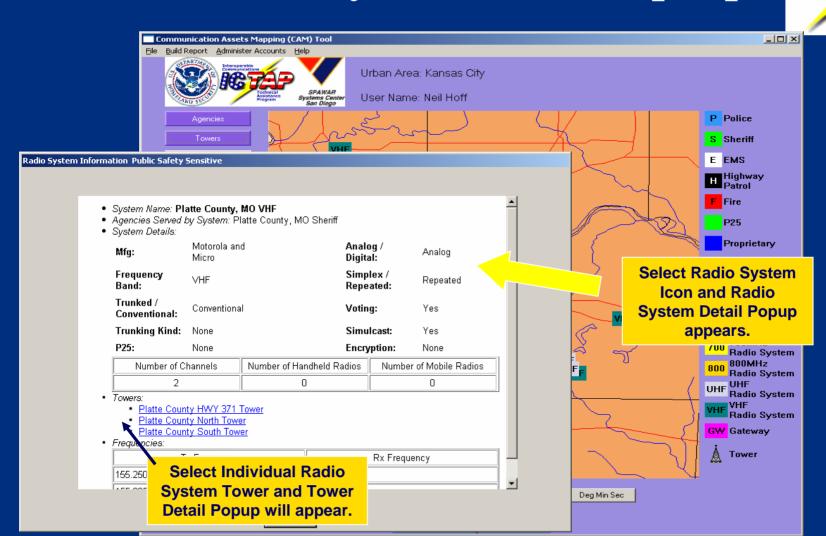
# CASM – Radio Systems View







#### CASM – Radio System Detail Pop-Up





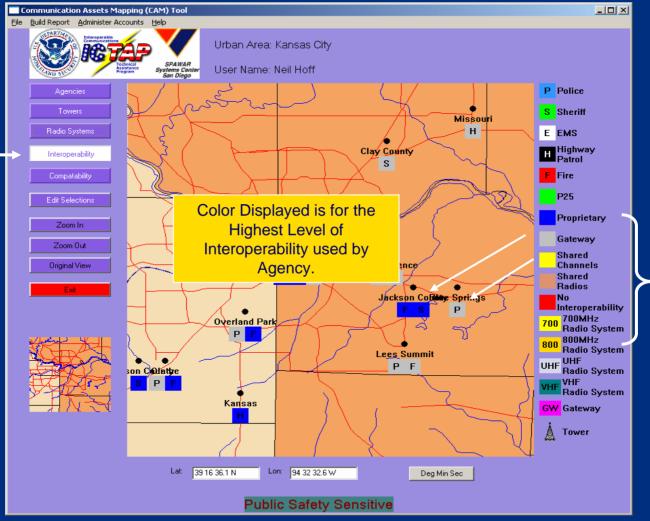
Interoperable Communications

> Assistance Program

## **CASM** – Interoperability View



Interoperability Layer



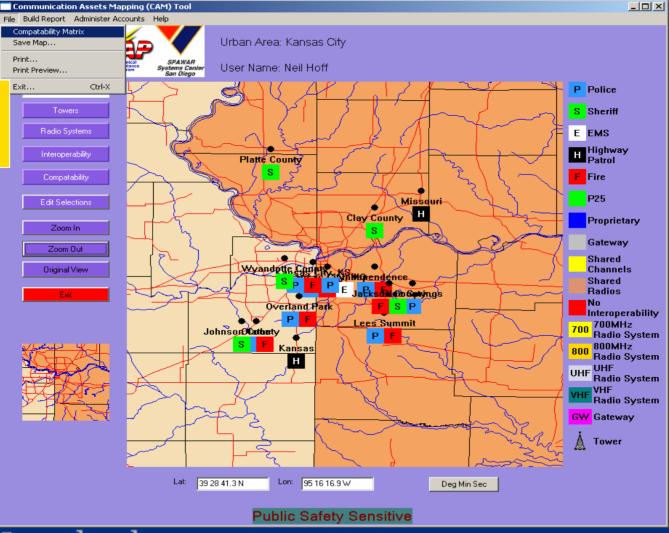
Interoperability Continuum Icon Legend



# CASM – Compatibility Matrix (Selection)



Access the Compatibility Matrix from the 'File' Menu





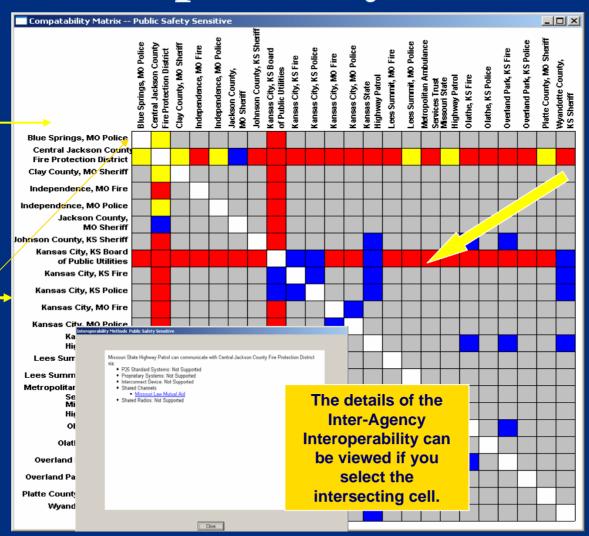
# **CASM – Compatibility Matrix**

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Technical Assistance Program

When
Compatibility
Matrix is selected
from the File
Menu, the Matrix
window appears
showing level of
compatibility
between Agencies.

The Urban Area Agencies appear on both top and side.



The Intersection of agency rows is color coded according to the level of interoperability between agencies (see the Interoperability Legend on the Map).

Shown here are:

Blue - Proprietary

**Grey - Gateway** 

Yellow - Shared Channels

Red – No Interoperability

White - intersection of agency with itself.





# Questions/Comments?

Thank you

