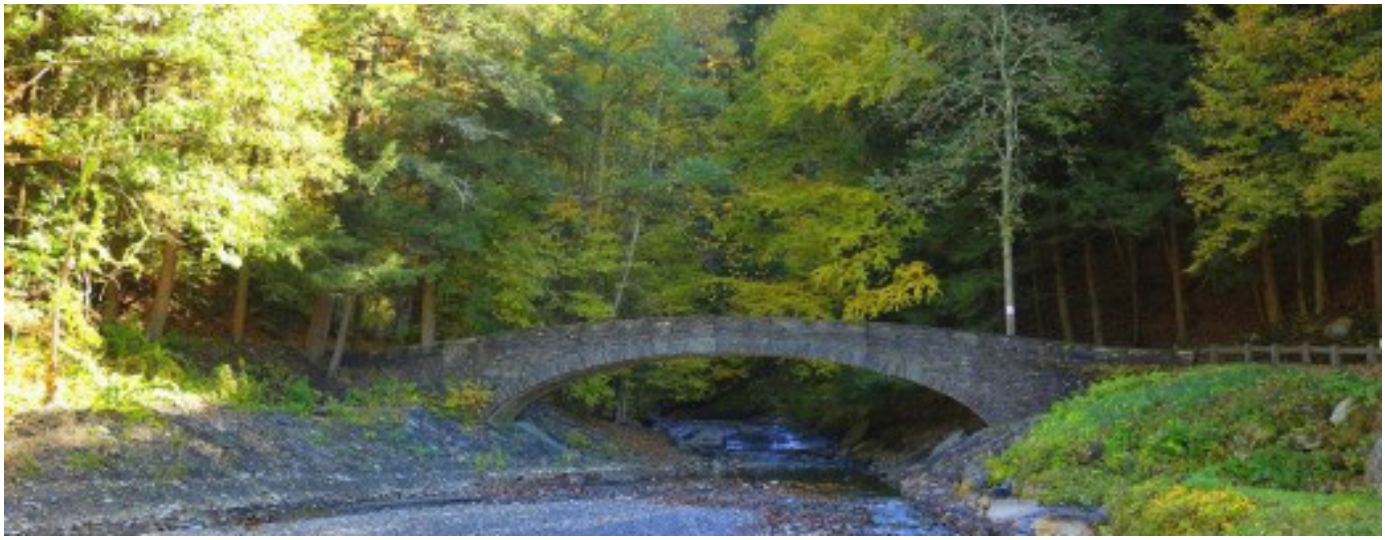
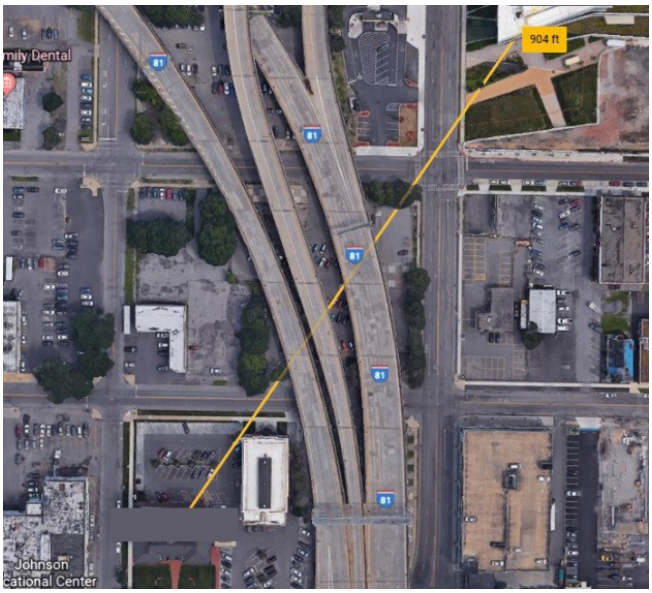
Success Story

Appreciating Siklu
An Un-a-bridged Tale



You gotta love a good bridge… like this gorgeous unit in Moravia, NY

If that bridge could talk it would tell you stories from my childhood. It would also speak of my own children flying across it on their bicycles countless times through the years. Lovers holding hands as they stroll, school picnics, photographers marking the change of seasons… Ah, memories.

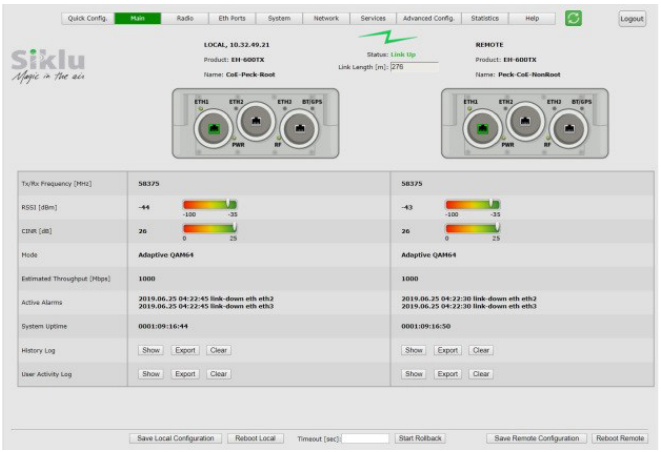


Ahem That's NOT the kind of bridge we're here to discuss though (but thanks for indulging me on that). Friends, I'd like you to meet the Siklu EH-600TX. I'm impressed so far, and so feel compelled to share some thoughts with anyone interested.

I have two of them newly in production, forming a point-to-point bridge link, and a third sitting in a spares cabinet waiting to jump into service if ever the need arises. The birds-eye view of my link goes a little something like this:

This unit is absolutely "carrier grade" from a build quality perspective. The EH-600TX works in the unlicensed 60 GHz spectrum, and I added the license that gets you to 1000 Mbps aggregate capacity, from the base 500 Mbps. You can slew your up/down to be asymmetrical if you so desire.

The 60 GHz spectrum is a mysterious place where oxygen absorption of all things needs to be understood (see this quick primer), and the transmitted beams are often described as no bigger than pencils or dimes. Wireless bridges of any sort can be hard to align, and the tighter the beams the more true that statement becomes. Yet Siklu provides excellent directions and an alignment methodology that let a technician who has not done a lot of this sort of work get it right fairly quickly.



Given the weirdness of the 60 GHz spectrum, I really wanted to exercise this link in crappy weather before turning it loose on the network. The skies over Central New York have obliged, as we've had a fairly miserable spring and early summer with plenty of Florida-grade Sheets-of-Rain and Walls-of-Water sorts of storms. Through them all, the Siklu link did not blink.

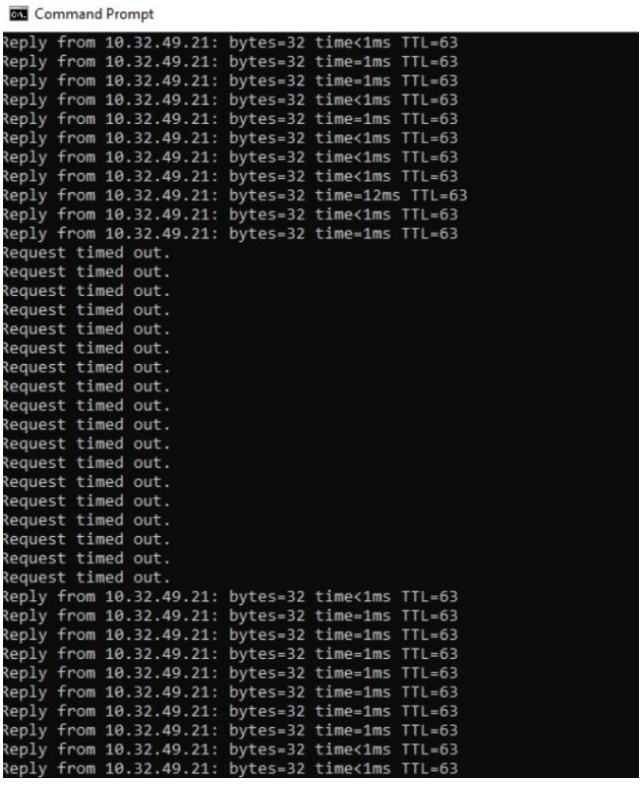
After pressing the new bridges into service for real, I realized I should probably get the latest firmware put on them. As with the alignment process, Siklu provides good directions for this task. And the total time of upgrade-related outage is petty impressive:

In testing via iPerf and other trusted verification metrics, I find that the EH-600TX delivers what it promises for speed and capacity. So far, it's been a great experience.

This link is replacing a licenced 80 GHz Exalt setup of similar capacity, and it's so nice to work with "palm-sized" hardware (as Siklu describes it). We also have smaller Exalts and LigoWave bridges in service, but this Siklu is now our big dog from a capacity perspective.

We are running the link as simple as possible, with it functioning as a patch-cable in the air in a simple extension of the LAN. But there is a lot that might be done with the bridge's three Ethernet ports, and I encourage you to dig more into Siklu's capabilities if interested.

Time will tell if I made the right choice with the Siklu EH-600TX, but the early verdict is that it's a winner.



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