

Remote Broadcasting Connections: Trends and Suggestions

Prepared For:
SBE Chapter #40



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Most Important: Are You OK?

In reflecting on the last few weeks and months of addressing the COVID-19 emergency, our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected by this ongoing global emergency. We appreciate and thank all those doctors, nurses and health care workers on the front line, and we hope that you are staying safe and have been able to avoid exposure to COVID-19.

Who is Tieline?



Tieline is a Telecommunications Research and Development Company Specialising in point-to-point Audio Codecs over IP, POTS and ISDN to the Global Radio Industry for over 30 years

More than 100,000 Audio Codecs Used Everyday
for Contribution, STL and Distribution by Radio
Stations Across the Globe

Customers Around The World



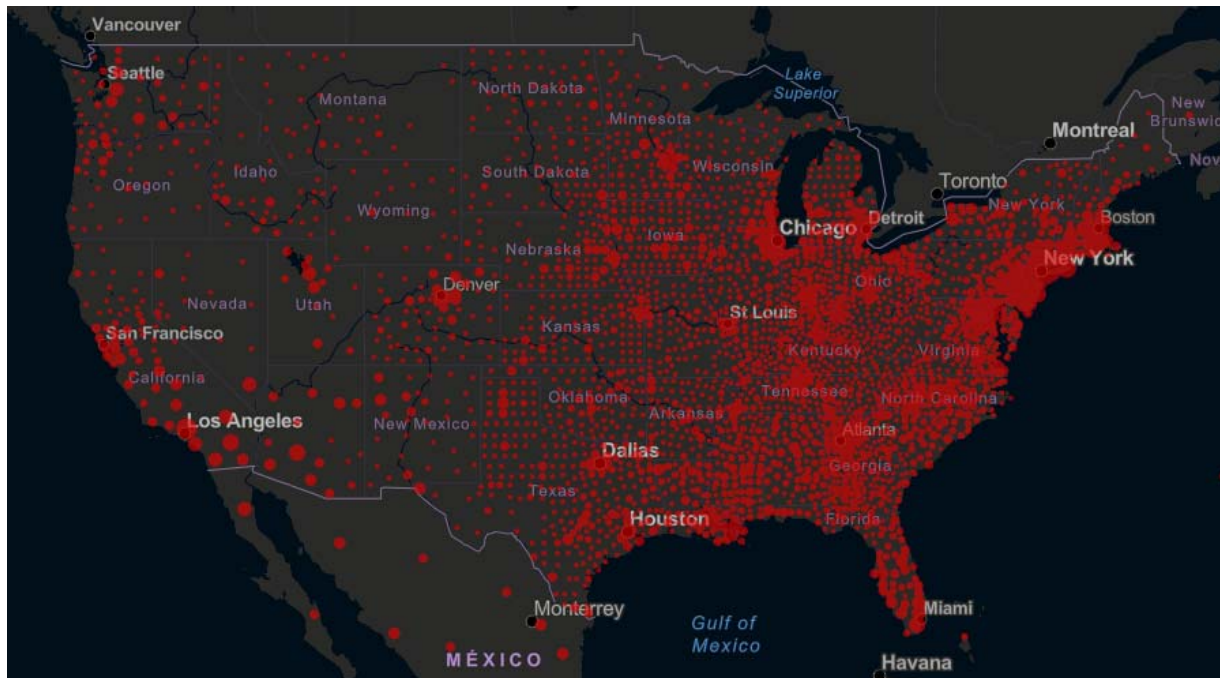
DOES YOUR ON-AIR TALENT NEED TO WORK REMOTELY?

With the COVID-19 emergency forcing social distancing upon us all, broadcasters require contingency plans allowing station talent to stay safe and go live on-air remotely from home.

Tieline has been creating IP remote broadcast solutions featuring multiple layers of redundancy and remote control capability for decades. As a result, there is already a large range of flexible and rock solid streaming solutions to suit every budget.

How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

New workflows differ depending on market size, population density, and geography/proximity to “Hotspots”



Source: Johns Hopkins University

How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

Small Markets/Low Density Populations

- In smaller remote markets with very low number of Covid-19 cases, there has been less need to work remotely.
- Fewer employees and lower general population density.
- Some disruption with workflows but not near as much as everywhere else.
- Unless...You have a meat packing company or a coal mine in your market.



How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

Larger Markets/Dense Populations

- The virus has been very disruptive in these markets.
- Main studio automation is being put to the test.
- Talent broadcasting live and voice-tracking from living room studios.
- The engineers are/were the only ones left in the building.
- Scrambled to keep live content on the air. Nobody fully prepared for this.
- Solutions range from cheap short term fix to high quality long term setups.



VS.



Tieline®
The Codec Company

How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

Radio Broadcasters were forced to test the viability of remotely producing their studio programming

- Lots of radio companies were caught without a plan
- Cobbled together low cost and low quality solutions as a fast fix
- The longer Talent broadcasts from homes, the need for better remote equipment will increase.
- Engineers will find ways to smooth out the roughness of the short term fixes through creative necessity and higher quality equipment acquisition.
- Overall...management is happy with the results of the “test”.



How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

“Just Like Camping”

- Birds chirping, lawnmowers roaring, dogs barking, Amazon/UPS deliveries, emergency vehicles’ sirens blaring, kids playing, audio drops, late audio delivery, and sub-par acoustics.
- Does it matter? Uh, yeah, but some seem to think that a little “rough” production makes their shows sound more “real”, more “local”.
- Ok for now, but the jocks get frustrated with the drops, delays, etc.
- Listeners hear it too.
- Cute in the beginning. Sloppy if it lasts too long.



How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

Remote broadcasting “aint goin’ away”

- Fewer people in the studio building means stations don’t need all the space that they currently occupy.
- In big markets commercial office space in high visibility buildings where radio companies like to operate from leases for \$100/square foot or more.
- Do the math...during an economic downturn, an industry that was already struggling will see this as an easy way to lower operating expenses.
- The remote equipment works great, the jocks like working from home (especially single parents), and the GM gets to run the place leaner.



How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

What's Next: Investment in better remote equipment

- More hardware will be installed in home studios.
- Robust all-in-one solutions that stream, record, edit, and play audio from several sources (some from other remote locations) will be most popular.
- More attention paid to increase the audio quality of remote solutions.



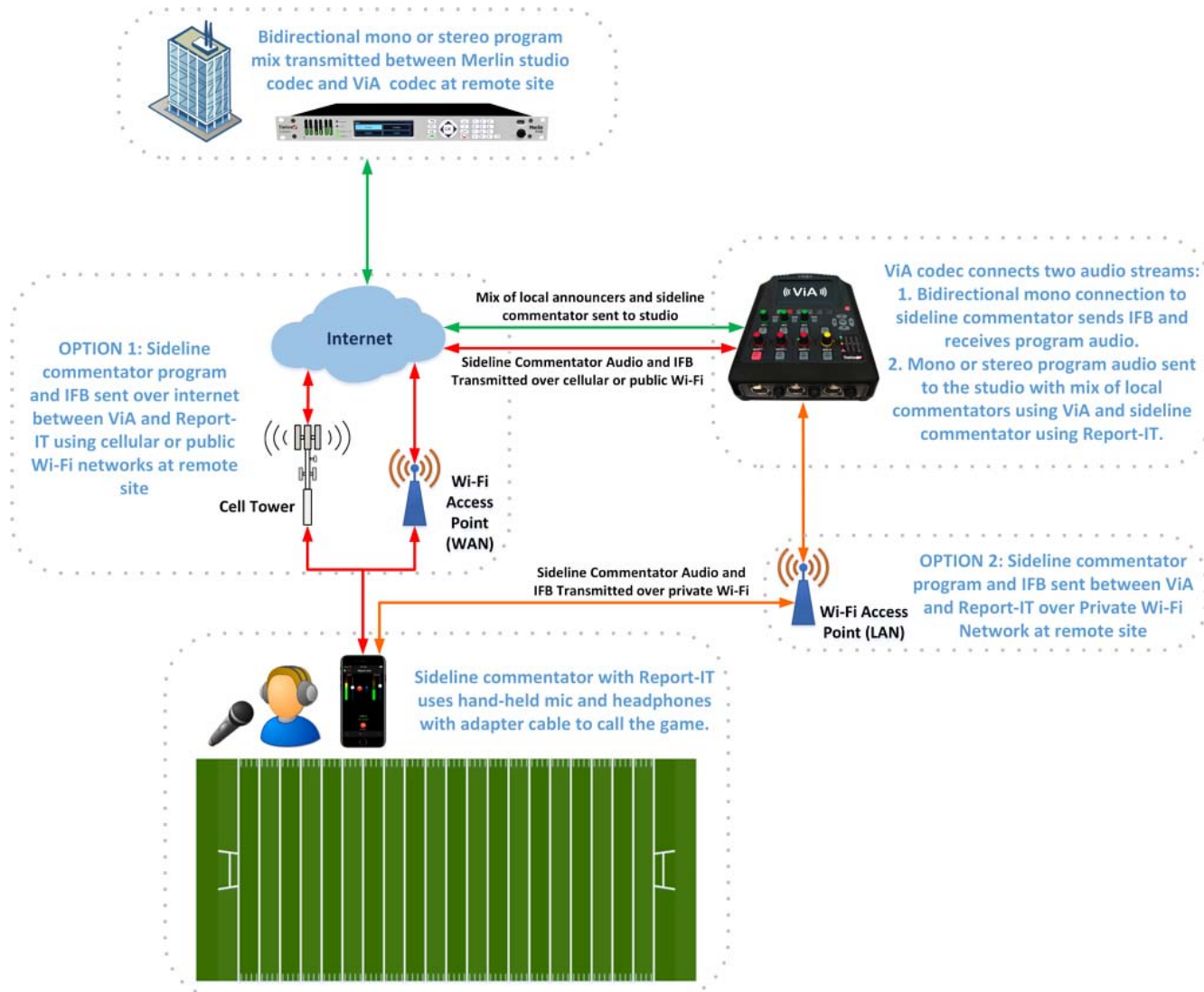
How Have Radio Operators Responded To Keep Air Staff And Product Functioning In This Environment?

Equipment Feature Wish List

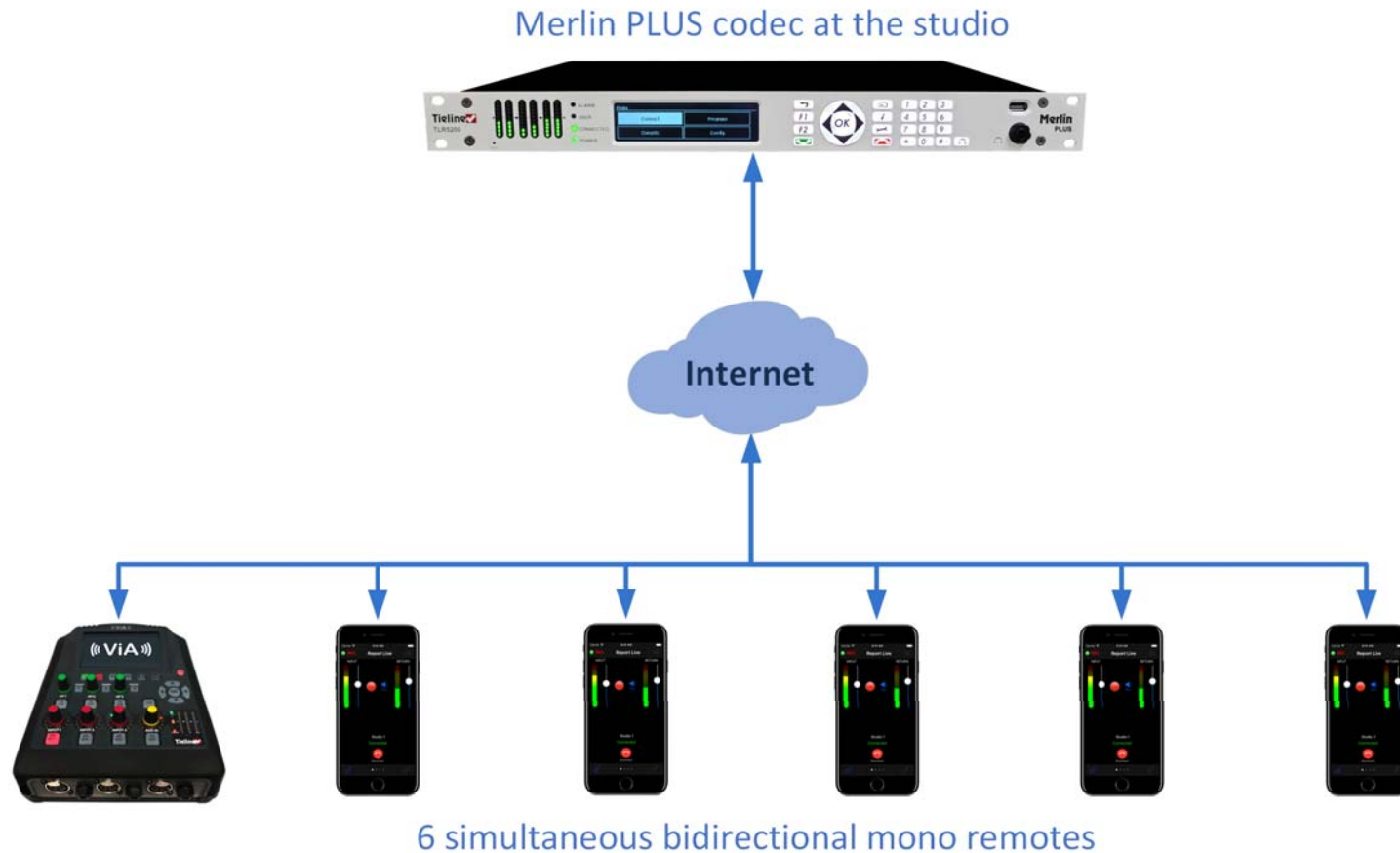
- Multiple IP network connection options for quality and redundancy
- Configurable routing
- On-board audio processing
- Separate IFB channels
- Ease of use
- Remote control



Suggested Integrated Solution: ViA, Merlin Plus and Report-IT Enterprise



Via-Merlin Plus-Report IT



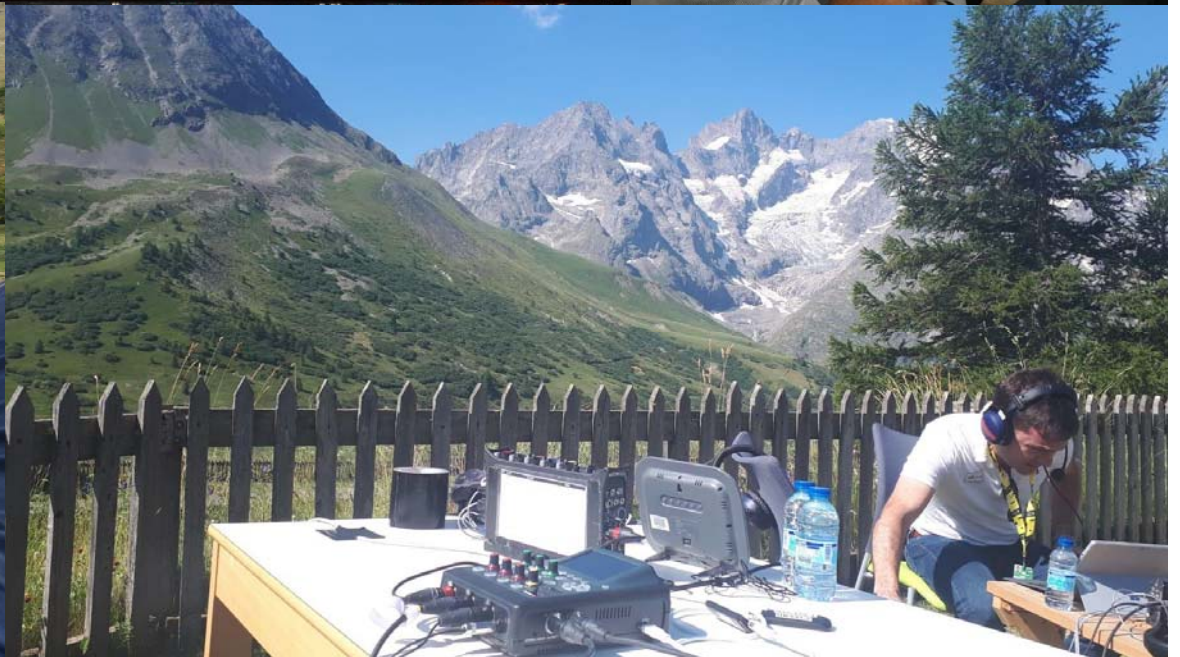


ViA – The Portable Codec of Choice

Tieline ViA Delivers Flexible Remote Connection Options



The ViA remote codec allows a broadcaster at home or in the field to stream live audio, record interviews, view and manage recordings, create playlists of local and imported files and even produce podcasts that can be sent via FTP directly from the unit. The ViA is capable of mono, stereo, dual mono, triple mono as well as stereo plus mono connections. This provides great flexibility and the ability to incorporate guests into live broadcasts using Tieline's Report-IT app or other IP codecs. Up to 3 redundant streams can be configured for reliable connections.



ViA Interfaces



ViA Interfaces



ViA Interfaces



ViA Interfaces





Android™ Phone pictured

Report-IT

The World's First Remote Broadcast App

Go live first with the multi award-winning Report-IT app which turns your smartphone into a pocket-sized high fidelity IP audio codec and ultra-slim high quality audio recorder.

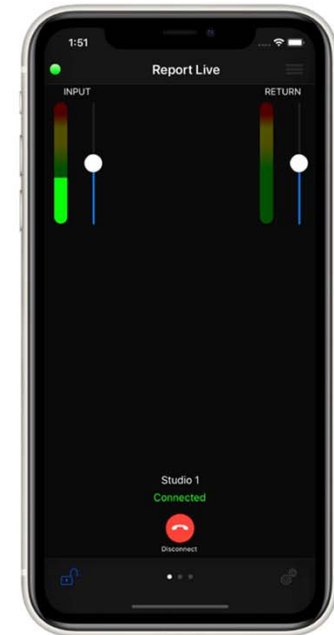


Report-IT Enterprise App

If you own codecs already, one of the simplest and most affordable ways to scale up your ability to work from home is with the Report-IT Enterprise app. Report-IT is free for users to download and turns any smartphone into a pocket-sized IP codec that is very simple to use.

1. At the touch of a button journalists and guests can broadcast live IP audio over cellular or Wi-Fi from any remote location to an IP codec in the studio.
2. Perfect for remote broadcasts, live reports or two-way interviews, simply connect earphones to a phone and hear studio communications and program audio in real-time while broadcasting.
3. It's affordable and scalable to suit the specific needs of small, medium or large organizations.

You can even attach a professional mic to a phone using a compatible third-party microphone adapter cable! This scalable solution can be easily deployed to a large number of contributors. Learn more about using Report-IT at <https://tieline.com/Report-IT>



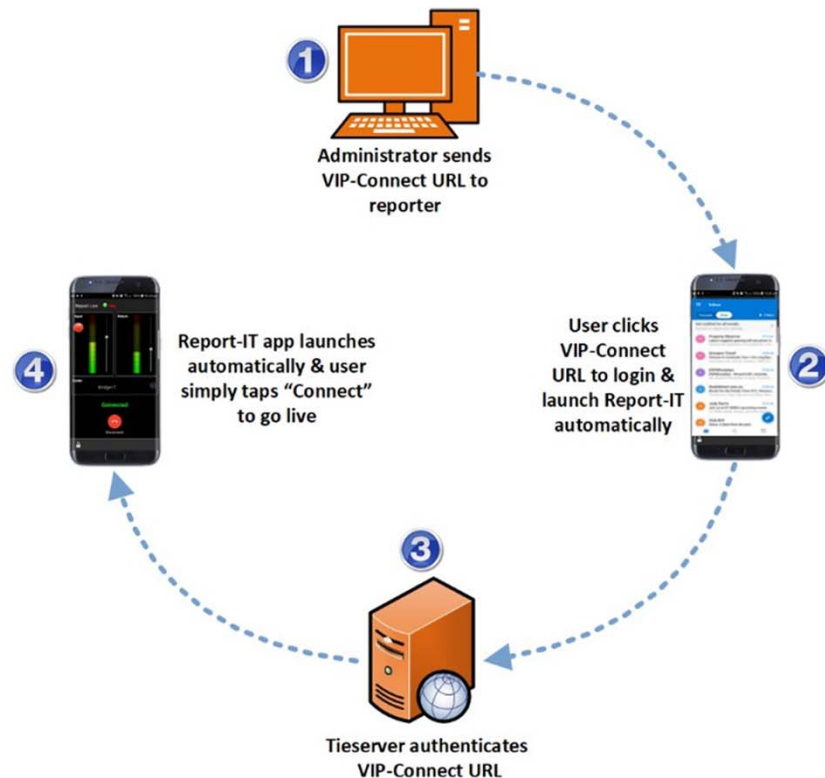
Report-IT Enterprise App

CONFIGURE REPORT-IT USER ACCOUNTS REMOTELY

Engineers can configure user accounts remotely, so users need no technical knowledge whatsoever to get started. Guests can also use VIP-Connect* and simply tap a hyperlink created by a Report-IT administrator to launch the Report-IT app on their phone and log in. They are ready to connect in seconds!

In this way users need no technical knowledge whatsoever to get connected and go live with high fidelity, crystal clear audio.

*Requires PC/Mac TieServer Console subscription



Report-IT Enterprise App





Cloud Codec Controller

Manage & control a fleet of Tieline codecs in your network

ultimate Remote Control !

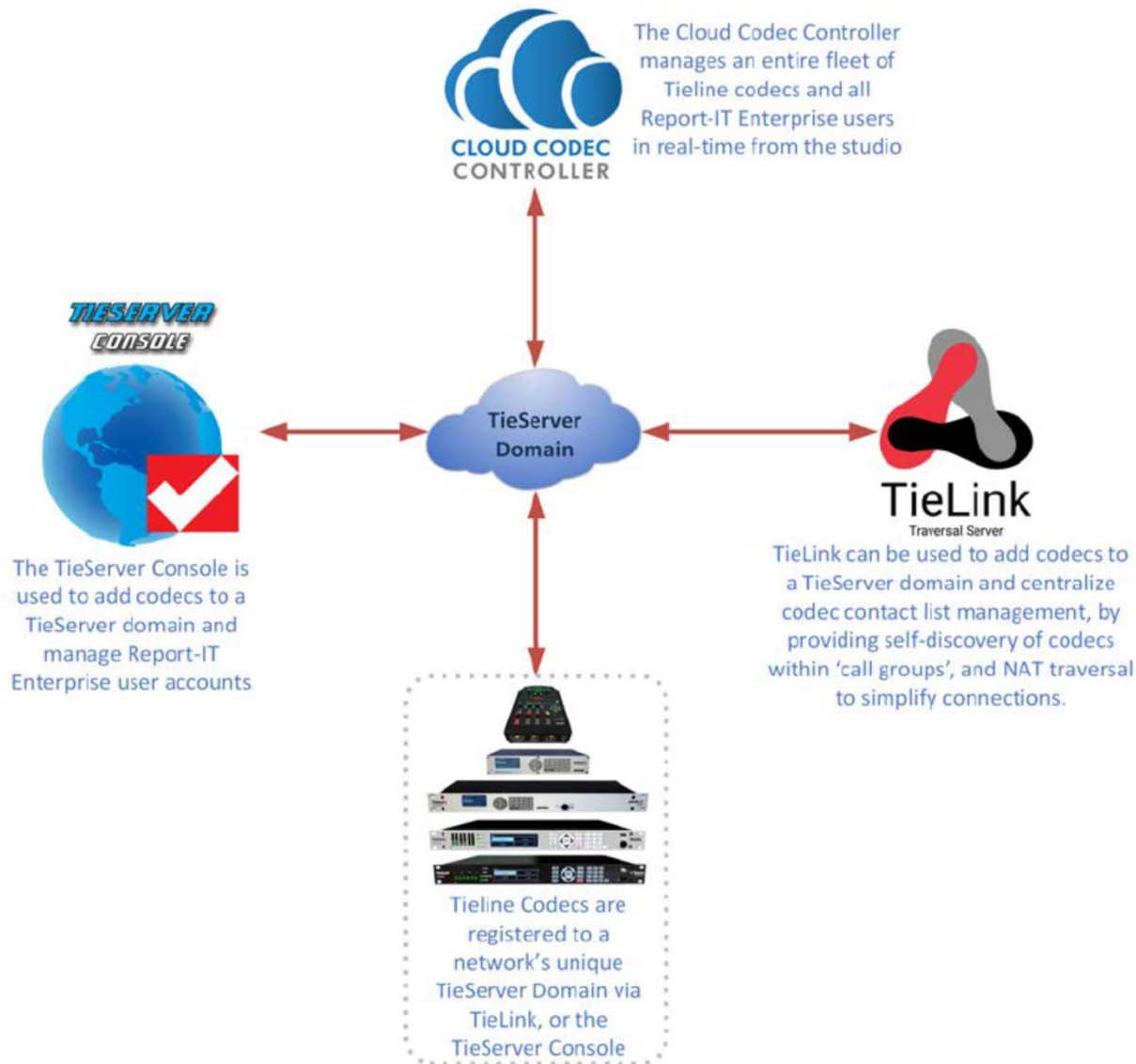
Cloud Codec Controller

CONTROL ALL CODECS AND REPORT-IT USERS REMOTELY

Tieline's Cloud Codec Controller is the easiest way for engineers to remotely control all codecs and Report-IT users from home or anywhere there is an internet connection. It delivers:

1. Real time online/offline status of supported codecs and users logged into Report-IT Enterprise.
2. Monitoring of connection status, link quality and audio levels.
3. Remote adjustment of audio levels.
4. The ability to remotely dial and hang-up remote codec connections from the studio.

Tieline Cloud Services Overview



Thank you

