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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Pai Appointed FCC Chair

President Trump has named Ajit Pai, an advocate of deregulation and a critic of the government's net neutrality rules, as the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Pai's new position will give him control over the nation's most powerful telecom and cable regulator, with a 2-to-1 Republican majority that is widely expected to begin undoing some of former president Barack Obama's most significant tech policies.

Congress Asked to Rescind Rules

Conservative groups are urging Congress to roll back the broadband privacy rules that were enacted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last year. In a letter to House and Senate leaders, the groups asked the lawmakers to use their Congressional Review Act authority to rescind the FCC's Broadband Privacy Order.

Revised ACAM Offers Made

After revising Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) offers last month in the face of a budget shortfall, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau has announced that 182 rate-of-return (ROR) companies elected 217 revised offers to receive \$454 million annually in 43 states for 10 years.

FCC Incentive Auction Round 9

TV Incentive spectrum auction proceeds hit \$18,505,053,387 after nine rounds of bidding concluded on Wednesday, Jan. 25. Round 9 ended up raising \$21.4 million over Round 8. Round 10 will commence Thursday morning as scheduled.

FCC Cybersecurity White Paper

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) has released a white paper entitled, "Cybersecurity Risk Reduction."



Market Watch

[Possible Verizon—Charter Merger](#)

[Connected TV Penetration Rises to 74%](#)

[Millennials Are 43% of Cordless Video Market](#)

[Broadband Populists Threaten Operators?](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Mobile Service Should be Prioritized

The Presidential Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) both released reports recently that share a pressing message: the U.S. government must address mobile security now. "The days of employees working only at an office using an organization-issued desktop computer fully managed by the organization are largely over," the Cybersecurity Commission states in its report.

No Company Too Small for Ransomware

Ransomware could potentially lead to the downfall of a small to medium-sized organization, but few believe they're equipped to handle it if their network is infected with malicious file-encrypting software.

Regulating IoT: Where to Start

The regulation of the Internet of Things has, so far, happened on a relatively ad hoc basis: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has gone after products egregiously lacking in security. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued voluntary guidelines for securing medical devices. A few other agencies like Homeland Security and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology have also released guidelines.

Top Five Ways to Secure IoT

Denial of service attacks have been bad for years, but the widespread infection of the Internet of Things have given bots a new power to DDoS. Don't let your smart bulbs and thermostats be part of the problem.

State of Premium Television

Last week we did a status check on the state of America's internet connectivity and speeds. What we found was that millions of consumers are benefiting from the increasingly fast and reliable internet connections that ISPs have been delivering for nearly two decades.



IN FOCUS: Chairman Ajit Pai Greatest Hits

Newly-appointed Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission—Ajit Pai—is of course no stranger to the telecommunications industry. He was appointed to his post by President Obama in 2012 and has, in the course of the past 4 plus years, made his share of "colorful" statements in regards to FCC orders and other various issues. In recognition of Mr. Pai's promotion, here are some of his "greatest hits:"

"But no commissioner is the child of Zeus, so it is unsurprising that the Commission made some mistakes and left some labors unfinished." - *Pai Statement, CAF Omnibus Order (2014)*

"The truth is I don't know whether this Order will help or hinder broadband deployment in rural America. No one does. That's in part because the FCC leadership has deliberately left the public in the dark." - *Pai Statement, RoR USF Reform Order (2016)*

"Ronald Reagan once said: 'Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.' That is an apt analogy for today's Lifeline program." - *Pai Statement, Lifeline Reform Order (2015)*

"And so, much like the final season of Lost, that recent James Patterson novel, and every Super Bowl halftime show since Janet Jackson, there's just not that much new being revealed." - *Pai Statement, Technology Transitions Order (2016)*

"But due to the FCC's actions today, those who have more insight into consumer behavior (edge providers) will be subject to more lenient regulation than those who have less insight (ISPs). This doesn't make sense." - *Pai Statement, Broadband Privacy Order (2016)*

"Americans love the free and open Internet. We relish our freedom to speak, to post, to rally, to learn, to listen, to watch, and to connect online. The Internet has become a powerful force for freedom, both at home and abroad. So it is sad to witness the FCC's unprecedented attempt to replace that freedom with government control." -and-

"The FCC proposed to the public a cross-country trip to San Francisco. Only after the car was on the road did the public realize the agency was taking it to Boston." - *Pai Statement (40 pages), Open Internet Order (2015)*

No matter what one thinks of Chairman Pai's positions, his ability with a turn of phrase is unparalleled.



Alexicon at Work

Conferences and Meetings

Doug Kitch and Vince Wiemer will attend the NTCA Annual Meeting and Expo in San Diego, CA on February 5-8.

Vince Wiemer will attend the Louisiana Telecommunications Association Annual Convention in New Orleans on February 22-24.



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