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# Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE  
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Headlines

### [Chairman Pai Rants Against Twitter](#)

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's swipe at social media channel Twitter's criticism of plans to rework the current net neutrality framework is being called out by industry organizations like Incompas and Fight for the future. During a speech in Washington, D.C., Pai said that Twitter, which is an advocate of the current Title II-base net neutrality framework, is nothing more than a platform for internet censorship.

### [Wheeler Addresses Net Neutrality](#)

Tom Wheeler, the former chairman of the FCC, has taken to the airwaves to air his own response to Ajit Pai's proposal to revise the current net neutrality rules, calling it a loss for consumers and businesses.

### [Rep Threatened Over Net Neutrality](#)

A New York man was arrested and charged Wednesday after threatening to kill Rep. John Katko (R-N.Y.) and his family if the congressman did not support net neutrality.

### [Fake Comments to the FCC](#)

More than half of the 21.7 million public comments submitted to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission about net neutrality this year used temporary or duplicate email addresses and appeared to include false or misleading information, the Pew Research Center said on Wednesday.

### [FCC to Ease TV Ownership Rules](#)

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai is moving forward with a controversial proposal to ease restrictions on the ownership of broadcast stations.

### [SCOTUS Tackles Cellphone Privacy](#)

U.S. Supreme Court justices signaled on Wednesday they may impose limits on the ability of police to obtain cellphone data from wireless providers to track the location of criminal suspects in a major test of privacy rights in the digital age.



## Market Watch

- [Coops Embrace Fiber Broadband](#)
- [Tracking Top Broadband Providers](#)
- [Consolidated Sells VA Properties](#)
- [Large Telcos Destined to Lose?](#)



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# Technology Trends

*New and notable technology and services*

## [Alexa is Ready for the Office](#)

Businesses can buy Alexa devices that help employees dial into conference calls, manage their calendars, find open meeting rooms and - not surprisingly - order work supplies from Amazon. Amazon wants Alexa to be everywhere, and it needs more voice data to feed and “train” it so that talking to the assistant feels like talking to a friend.

## [Charter’s Hybrid Ethernet Internet Access](#)

Charter’s Spectrum Enterprise may have followed Comcast as two of the first cable MSOs to enter the burgeoning SD-WAN market, but the service provider wants to focus its attention on offering different options that allow customers to migrate existing legacy services to next-gen on their own timeline.

## [Amazon Previews IoT Security Service](#)

As one of its last announcements on a day chock-full with new tools and features, Amazon previewed a new security device for the internet of things. Called IOT Device Defender, the new service will monitor policies around devices to look for anomalies in device activity and support customized rules and auditing policies that a customer would want to put in place.

## [AWS All About Capturing Data Flows](#)

The days of Amazon Web Services as an infrastructure provider are over as the company - and its customers -- are going server less and moving up the stack to be a machine learning, data management and artificial intelligence platform.

## [Net Neutrality Tech Issues](#)

The tug of war between broadband consumers, content and application services providers, large broadband and telecom providers and what sort of traffic will be permitted to transit their networks -- and what quality of service (QoS) policies they eventually will apply to them -- seems to be a conflict without resolution.



## **IN FOCUS:** ***Net Neutrality—Impact on Rural Broadband Providers***

Once again, Net Neutrality brings rare attention to the otherwise mundane activities of the FCC. From dueling statements by the current Chairman, former Chairman, and the Democratic Commissioners (including at least one television appearance by Jessica Rosenworcel, and another [rebuttal](#) from Mignon Clyburn), to death threats, to doomsayers predicting the end of the Internet (and democracy) as we know it, the FCC’s draft Open Internet Order (see 11/22/17 Special Bulletin) has fired the public imagination. However, reality for rural broadband providers is likely much more boring.

Recall that the 2015 Open Internet Order, which classified broadband Internet access service (BIAS) as a Title II common carrier service, endeavored to protect the perceived openness of Internet access by, among other things, adopting “bright line” rules prohibiting (1) blocking, (2) paid prioritization, and (3) throttling. The FCC also adopted a fairly vague “conduct standard” designed to address, on a case-by-case basis, future issues surrounding unreasonable interference/disadvantage activities. These rules supplemented the transparency rules adopted in 2010, and which survived appellate review, while also enhancing the transparency rules.

For rural BIAS providers, the bright line rules will no longer apply. To the extent any throttling, blocking, or paid prioritization was ceased as a result of the 2015 Order, those activities may be allowed once again (pending FCC approval of the draft order and the new rules surviving legal challenges). As to transparency rules,

small providers were never required to implement the enhanced rules adopted in 2015, and are therefore now mostly in compliance as the surviving transparency rules were adopted in 2010. The FCC’s draft order contains some revision to the 2010 transparency rules that we will detail once the final Order is released.

One issue that may affect certain rural BIAS providers is the affect the draft order will have on the classification of BIAS. In the 2015 Order, the Commission clearly differentiated between BIAS (i.e., the retail ISP-like offering to the end user) and broadband transmission. In the case of BIAS, the Order classified it as a Title II service (with substantial forbearance of normal common carrier rules). For broadband transmission service, the FCC stated that it was, and will continue to be, a Title II service subject to the full panoply of Common Carrier regulations. However, carriers were allowed to elect the FCC’s new Title II framework and in essence cease providing broadband transmission service. With the return of information service classification, these elections may be impacted. Once the order is released, we will provide further information on this topic.

Stay tuned to this space for what is sure to be substantial further details on the drama that is Net Neutrality.



## Alexicon at Work

### ***Conferences and Meetings***

Doug Kitch will be in Washington, D.C. on December 11 and 12. Chris Barron will attend the WTA Policy and Planning Committee meeting in San Diego on December 12 and 13.



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