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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Opinion: Pai Means Business](#)

With the election of Donald Trump as president, all of that changed — virtually overnight. Conservative FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai was elevated to the chairman's seat, and he immediately charted a course toward the right. For all those matters on which he vociferously dissented in the past four years, comeuppance has been quick.

[FCC to Make First Move on Net Neutrality](#)

The House subcommittee in charge of shaping telecommunications policy will let the Federal Communications Commission make the first move on rolling back net neutrality rules, the panel's chairman said Wednesday.

[FCC Open Meeting Agenda Items](#)

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has tentatively set an ambitious agenda for the February 23, 2017 Open Commission Meeting, including the Mobility Fund Phase II order, a CAF Phase II auction order, and a broadband reporting waiver for small businesses.

[Democrats on Net Neutrality](#)

Democrats on Tuesday vowed to stand firm against any efforts by Republicans to roll back the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) net neutrality rules. "The big broadband barons and their Republican allies want to turn back the clock and make big cable and big cellphone companies the gatekeepers for internet access," Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said at a press conference in the Capitol.

[Pai Defends LBP Decision](#)

New Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai defended himself on Tuesday following an uproar over the agency's move last week to revoke the participation of nine service providers in a program that provides subsidized internet access to low-income households.



Market Watch

- [TDS Municipal Broadband Acquisition](#)
- [Average Mobile Speed to 20mbps by 2021](#)
- [CenturyLink—Q2 for OTT TV Launch](#)
- [The State of TV Everywhere](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

IoT: Everyday Reality

The Internet of Things (IoT) has long been heralded but it is set to hit the mainstream with some 8.4 billion connected devices in use worldwide by the end of 2017. That's according to research firm Gartner, which forecasts a 31 per cent rise in the number of connected "things" from last year. Gartner estimates that total spending on endpoints and related services will reach almost \$2 trillion this year with the use of connected things driven by consumers and businesses in China, North America and Western Europe.

IoT Hackers & A University's Network

Hackers are increasingly building botnets out of unsecured Internet of Things devices and using them to direct traffic at particular targets in order to overwhelm servers with the aim of taking websites and services offline.

Video Streaming Collaboration

TouchCast is betting that live video streaming is going to go well beyond consumer tools like Facebook Messenger and evolve into a primary enterprise communications tool.

Google' DeepMind and AI

Scientists at Google-owned DeepMind have found its AIs behave almost the way humans do when faced with scarce resources. In a new study, DeepMind scientists plugged its AI agents, trained with deep reinforcement learning, into two multi-agent 2D games to model how conflict or cooperation emerges between selfish participants in a theoretical economy. As DeepMind explains, they trained their AI agents to behave the way some economists model human decision making. That is, selfish and always rational.

Sling Expanding DVR Trial

Sling TV, Dish Network's OTT TV service, will "soon" expand access of its cloud DVR beta trial to Amazon Fire TV boxes and sticks, Android TV device, and Android smartphones and tablets, and follow with support for Apple TV boxes. Sling TV kicked off its cloud DVR beta trial in December 2016 on the Roku platform.

Google: Sorry for Wide-Scope Outage

A botched software update triggered last month's two-hour outage affecting Google Compute Engine (GCE) instances, cloud VPNs, and network load balancers. While the incident wasn't as serious as a past network outage, Google had promised a full explanation due to the "wide scope" of this one, which dropped connections to all GCE instances, cloud VPN tunnels and network load balancers that were created or live-migrated on Monday, January 30. "We apologize for the wide scope of this issue and are taking steps to address the scope and duration of this incident as well as the root cause itself," said Google's Cloud Platform engineers. This outage was triggered by a "large set" of updates to its load-balancing gear, although the outage itself was caused by updates getting jammed during testing inside a canary deployment.



IN FOCUS: **RoR USF Reform** **News**

Implementation continues of the FCC's March 2016 RoR USF Reform Order, with the FCC and USAC releasing additional information recently.

First, the FCC released updated information regarding the deployment obligations for RoR carriers remaining on the legacy USF mechanisms (i.e., CAF BLS). The information can be found at USAC's website ([here](#)). As a reminder, only companies with less than 80% broadband coverage ratio will have specific broadband buildout obligations noted in the updated spreadsheet.

Second, USAC collected and [released](#) the broadband buildout methodology selections made by all carriers. In the RoR USF Order, the FCC provided carriers with alternatives for calculating the CAF BLS broadband buildout obligations (CAF BLS divided by cost per location to compute total locations): costs generated by the ACAM or the higher of actual cost per loop of similar carriers with 95% deployment—or—150% of average cost of carriers with similar density and deployment. Again, only those carriers with a specific CAF BLS broadband buildout obligation will reflect a selected methodology on the USAC spreadsheet.

Finally, USAC posted some High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) portal [FAQs](#) recently. For those carriers with location reporting obligations, this is worth a look.



Alexicon at Work

Alexicon consultants are busy finishing up and filing NECA projections this week (due today). Due to changes in universal service and access charge rules, 3-year projections proved to be a bit of a challenge in many cases. However, submitting accurate forecasts to NECA help in the pooling process, assure stable revenue streams, and in general cut down on surprises during the annual true-up/cost study process.

Next on the list is the annual March 1 regulatory filing barrage (including Form 477) and location assistance reporting for certain companies that is also due on March 1.



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