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# Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE  
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Headlines

### [FCC Adopts CAF, Mobility Phase II](#)

The FCC voted yesterday to establish a mobility fund as part of broader plans to transition the traditional Universal Service Fund (USF) program to a Connect America Fund (CAF) program that will focus on broadband for remote rural areas. In addition, the commission established weighting factors for bids in the upcoming CAF reverse auction, which will award funding rejected by price cap carriers in 20 states.

### [GOP Sets Sights on Privacy Rules](#)

Republicans in Congress are setting their sights on killing the Federal Communications Commission's landmark internet privacy rules, the next target in their push to roll back Obama-era regulations. The rules require broadband service providers to obtain permission from consumers before using certain personal information for marketing purposes.

### [Pai: D.C. Should Not Micromanage](#)

FCC chairman Ajit Pai says D.C. bureaucrats should not micromanage dynamic industries and that he supports Congress making broadband part of an infrastructure legislative package. He also suggests the government should not be trying to divine journalists' editorial judgments.

### [Groups Ask FCC to Commit to Lifeline](#)

A coalition of civil rights and digital advocacy groups is calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to renew its commitment to Lifeline, a program that provides subsidies for internet access to low-income households.

### [FCC Approves Use of Wireless Devices](#)

The Federal Communications Commission is approving the first devices that use a technology intended to ease data congestion on broadband networks. The agency's Office of Engineering and Technology on Wednesday allowed the sale of Ericsson and Nokia...



## Market Watch

[Indiana Fiber Network Supports Ethernet](#)

[Lawmakers Skeptical About AT&T Merger](#)

[The Future of Super-Fast Internet](#)

[Survey: Interest in Service Provider WiFi](#)



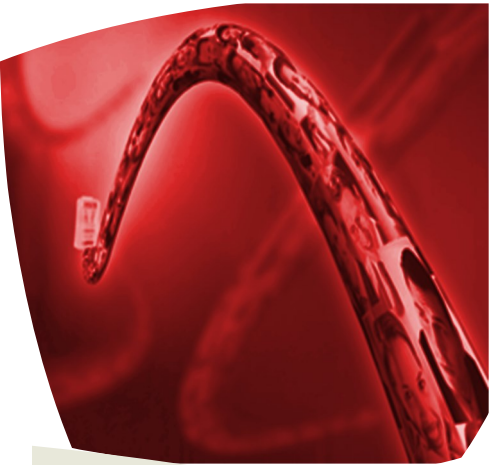
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Questions? Comments?  
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# Technology Trends

*New and notable technology and services*



## Agriculture Industry and IoT

Agriculture is commonly cited as an industry that has much to gain by harnessing the Internet of Things (IoT), with some even saying that it could be "the first big industrial IoT market". Advancements in technology mean that farm equipment, soil, waterways, and even livestock can now be instrumented.

## IoT Used to Monitor HVAC

Carrier, one of the world's largest manufacturers of electrical appliances and equipment, will be building "Internet of Things" (IoT) network intelligence into its product line. Carrier is part of United Technologies Corp.'s (UTC) Climate, Controls & Security group. A new Carrier, AT&T IoT deal calls for AT&T wireless connectivity to be added to commercial HVAC (heating, ventilation, and cooling) with Carrier SMART Service.

## Tech Faces Harsh Reality of AR/VR

This month showed evidence that Google is poised for more progress with its democratized approach, announcing this week that it plans to bring more virtual reality environments to the Chrome browser via WebVR. The move is consistent with the company's mission to blur the lines between web apps and native ones.

## 15 Biggest Online Threats

"Undoubtedly, optimization of cyber-crime turnover was THE trend observed in 2016. And, as with many of the negative aspects in cyber-space, this trend is here to stay. The development and optimization of badware towards profit will remain the main parameter for attack methods, tools and tactics," warned the report from the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA).

## Users Not Always to Blame for Breaches

Cybersecurity professionals need to stop blaming users for being unable to follow security policies in the workplace, and realise that business and technology processes should accept some of the responsibility.



## IN FOCUS: *Pai's First Month*

In a statement accompanying the FCC's decision at yesterday's Open Meeting to reduce Part 32 reporting for some companies, Chairman Pai offered a reference to Percy Bysshe Shelley, saying Part 32 is the FCC's version of *Ozymandias*: "Look on my Works, ye mighty, and despair." Thus continues Ajit Pai's penchant for quotable statements accompanying FCC orders. Whether or not Chairman Pai's reference to a poem whose main theme is *collapse following greatness* is a further comment on the state of the FCC remains to be seen.

The new Chairman's first open meeting included some other notable items in addition to the lesson on English poetry:

- ⇒ Delayed implementation of certain Open Internet transparency rules for small companies (see 2/23/17 *Special Bulletin*)
- ⇒ As mentioned in the lead article, CAF Phase II and Mobility Phase II funds were moved forward
- ⇒ Part 32 rules were relaxed for some companies—definitely for price cap companies, but we'll have to review the order once it's released to see the impact, if any, on other carriers

In addition, and as reported in the article above, the Chairman has been defending a decision to rescind Lifeline Broadband Provider (LBP) designations from several companies. In general, the press on this subject is fairly inaccurate—the decision does not in any way threaten low-income consumers' ability to afford broadband

service; instead, the decision acknowledges some deficiencies in the approval process that granted LBP status to nine wireless providers.

Finally, the FCC's Office of Media Relations released a [statement](#) on the direction online privacy regulations are apparently taking under a Pai-led FCC. In general, the new FCC is advocating a return "to a technology-neutral privacy framework for the online world and harmonizing the FCC's privacy rules for broadband providers with the FTC's standards for others in the digital economy." Of key interest to providers is the statement that a stay of this rule will be pursued prior to the effective date of the Data Security rules on March 2. Stay tuned on this one.

There should be few, if any, surprises in the first month's activity of the Pai Commission. This can be expected to continue, but it is worth remembering that the FCC is still short two commissioners, so exactly how things proceed from here is still a bit unclear.



## Alexicon at Work

**Form 477 Filing Delay.** The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) today announcing the delay of the Form 477 filing due date (March 1) due to technical difficulties. The new due date will be announced in the future once the difficulties have been resolved.

### Conferences and Meetings

Vince Wiemer will be in Washington, D.C. next week visiting the three FCC commissioner's offices.

Several people from Alexicon will attend the WTA Spring Meeting in Hilton Head, SC on March 12-15.



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Questions? Comments?

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