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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Senate Votes to Undo Privacy Rules](#)

Senate lawmakers voted Thursday to repeal a historic set of rules aimed at protecting consumers' online data from their own Internet providers, in a move that could make it easier for broadband companies to sell and share their customers' usage information for advertising purposes. The rules, which prohibit providers from abusing the data they gather on their customers as they browse the Web on cellphones and computers, were approved last year over objections from Republicans who argued the regulations went too far.

[House Looks at Broadband Infrastructure](#)

The House Communications Subcommittee did a deep dive on broadband infrastructure Tuesday. At issue were a couple of bills already in the works and the broader proposals for massive general infrastructure bills that will almost certainly include broadband. The bills are a discussion draft of legislation to "facilitate the deployment of communications

infrastructure" and the "Broadband Conduit Deployment Act of 2017."

[Lawmakers Call for Renewed NBM](#)

House legislators from both sides of the aisle renewed calls to update the National Broadband Map, which was initially created by the NTIA and the FCC but has languished since 2014 due to lack of funding.

[FCC Addresses AT&T 911 Outage](#)

The Federal Communications Commission said Thursday that a nationwide AT&T 911 outage resulted in thousands of people not being able to reach emergency dispatchers.

[Pai: Media Not the Enemy of the People](#)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai said Monday that he does not believe the media is the "enemy of the people" as President Trump has tweeted, after sidestepping that question during a Senate Commerce hearing earlier this month.



Market Watch

[TDS Managed IP Footprint to Expand](#)

[Voice Assistant Penetration Increases](#)

[Growth of Mobile Video Maturing](#)

[AT&T Could Cover 98% of U.S. with 5G](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Telemedicine Saves Costs

While telehealth policies, technological advancements and utilization continue to grow, whether it actually reduces healthcare costs and improves outcomes is still a point of some contention. As the bulk of such analysis focuses on the bottom line of health plans and employers, researchers at University of California Davis instead are looking on how it impacts patients at a more basic level:

FirstNet Buildout Could Start Soon

AT&T could start deploying the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as early as June if it is awarded the contract next month, Barclays said. The U.S. Federal Court of Claims ruled in favor of FirstNet on Friday, meaning the first broadband network devoted to public safety can proceed with a contract award. The 25-year contract is expected to bring additional business to infrastructure vendors and tower operators.

CTL Execs on CO Virtualization

CenturyLink has plans for central office virtualization, and the first place the company is implementing those plans involves DSL service delivery, as news announced today illustrates. The company said it was the first carrier to use its own virtualized broadband network gateway (vBNG) based on central office re-architected as a datacenter (CORD) concepts.

Data Leakage and the IIOT

The Internet of Things has raised concerns about people hacking into home networks or using armies of bots to disrupt communications. But with the Industrial IoT, the stakes are significantly higher—and the effects can last much longer.

IOT Security: Is Every Device is Smart?

Billions more everyday items are set to be connected to the internet in the next few years, especially as chips get cheaper and cheaper to produce -- and crucially, small enough to fit into even the smallest product. Potentially, any standard household item could become connected to the internet, even if there's no reason for the manufacturers to do so. Eventually that processors needed to power an IoT device will become effectively free, making it possible to turn anything into a internet-enabled device.



IN FOCUS: A Potpourri of FCC Activity

2017 Annual Access Charge Tariff Filings—Order

The FCC's Pricing Policy Division released the order covering the 7/1/2017 Annual Access Charge filings last week. This order establishes the time frame under which the annual access charge filings are made. This year, the schedule looks like this:

- 15-Day tariff filings (which are most) are due 6/16/2017, with effective dates of 7/1/2017.
- 7-Day tariff filings are due June 26 with July 3 effective dates.

Since this is an off-year, small companies filing under part 61.39 of the FCC's rules are scheduled for the normal tariff filing and all that this entails. Alexicon will be (or has been) in touch with those clients who are operating under their own tariffs to gather the necessary information to ensure a relatively painless tariff filing process.

2nd Cost Surrogate Waiver Order

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued another CAF BLS cost surrogate waiver order this week to address an apparent weakness in the FCC's rules. As with the first waiver order, issued on 12/14/16, this one provides a waiver for certain steps necessary to determine CAF BLS; specifically, the amount of costs that can be removed from special access and added to consumer broadband-only revenue requirement.

For companies with data only broadband customers, the implications of this waiver are important in regards to CAF BLS; as a result, please contact us to go over these issues. NECA requests certification of the affected data by March 28, 2017.

Separations Freeze Extension

The FCC released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes to extend the separations category and factor freeze that has been in place since 2001. For RoR carriers, all allocation factors were mandatorily frozen, while freezing separations categories was up to each company. The FCC has repeatedly extended the freeze over the years, with the latest freeze scheduled to expire on June 30, 2017. The Commission proposes to extend the freeze for 18 months.

In the FNPRM, the FCC acknowledges that its separations rules will be updated in light of changes in the industry (e.g., the importance of internet traffic) and in other Commission rules (e.g., the recent Part 32 Order). This process will be undertaken in consultation with the Federal-State Joint Board on Separations.

The comment date has yet to be established and will be dependent upon publication of the FNPRM in the Federal Register.



Alexicon at Work

Conferences and Meetings

Vince Wiemer will attend the NTCA Legislative and Policy Conference next week in Washington D.C.

Doug Kitch will also be in D.C., attending meetings with the National Tribal Telecommunications Association.



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