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INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Trump Signs Privacy Rules Repeal

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed a repeal of Obama-era broadband privacy rules, the White House said, a victory for internet service providers and a blow to privacy advocates. Republicans in Congress last week narrowly passed the repeal of the privacy rules with no Democratic support and over the strong objections of privacy advocates. The signing, disclosed in White House statement late on Monday, follows strong criticism of the bill, which is a win for AT&T Inc, Comcast Corp and Verizon Communications Inc.

Pai: Op-Ed on Broadband Privacy Rules

April Fools' Day came early last week, as professional lobbyists lit a wildfire of misinformation about Congress's action — signed into law Monday by President Trump — to nullify the Federal Communications Commission's broadband privacy rules.

Pai Announces BDAC Members

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Announces Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee Members, Working Groups, And Leadership. In addition, the Chairman announced that the first meeting will be held on April 21

Application of 10% Rule Upheld

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) has denied several pending requests for review of audit findings related to whether certain mixed-use private line revenues should be considered interstate for universal service purposes.

Fast Track Repeal of Net Neutrality

The chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission is moving quickly to replace the Obama administration's landmark net neutrality rules and wants internet service providers to voluntarily agree to maintain an open internet, three sources briefed on the meeting said Thursday.



Market Watch

- [Broadband Policy Ideas to Spur Investment](#)
- [Report Quantifies Rural Telehealth Benefits](#)
- [Rural OTT Usage Lower than National Avg](#)
- [Liberty Interactive Buys GCI of Alaska](#)



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Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron

cbarron@alexicon.net

Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Difference Between Ethernet Types

When choosing the Ethernet technology that might best fit your industrial system, you first need to have some base information:

- How many I/O points do you have?
- How fast do you need the information?
- What is my span of control (the amount of devices being controlled off how many I/Os)?
- What training or knowledge do people have in terms of operating this equipment?

VPNs and Internet Privacy

Last week, Congress voted to gut proposed internet privacy rules set out by the outgoing Obama administration that would have prevented your internet provider from selling your browser history to advertisers. President Donald Trump signed the bill a day after, making it law. Many turned to what appeared to be an obvious solution: A virtual private network (VPN).

Charter to Conduct 5G Experiments

Charter Communications appears to be as serious about 5G as anyone, with plans to test antennas at several locations in the Orlando, Florida, area, if the FCC approves its application. Charter subsidiary CCO Fiberlink filed the paperwork, first spotted by consulting wireless engineer Steve Crowley, that seeks a two-year experimental license beginning June 1 to test and evaluate millimeter wave coverage and capacity performance. The application lists Ericsson as the equipment provider.

Microsoft Aims to Secure IoT Devices

Microsoft researchers are working on a new project aimed at trying to secure low-cost Internet of Things (IoT) devices. The Project Sopor team is "exploring the goal of security the vast number of low cost internet connected devices coming online,"

Twitter Refuses U.S. Order

Twitter Inc on Thursday filed a federal lawsuit to block an order by the U.S. government demanding that it reveal who is behind an account opposed to President Donald Trump's tough immigration policies. Twitter cited freedom of speech as a basis for not turning over records about the account, @ALT_uscis. The account is claimed to be the work of at least one federal immigration employee...



IN FOCUS: Broadband Privacy Rules What Now?

Now that legislation nullifying the FCC's broadband privacy rules has been signed by President Trump, the question becomes, after all the hyperbole can be cleared away, what happens now?

Recall that the rules, adopted in 2016, basically applied CPNI rules to the provision of broadband internet access service (BIAS). Beyond that, there were also data security rules and data breach notice requirements. All are now, presumably, going to be eliminated, leaving the industry at a pre-March 2016 rule status.

What does this mean? For one, since the Broadband Privacy Order eliminated certain CPNI rules, such as the requirement to make annual certifications, the rules will presumably be put back into place. These rules related to the certification and recordkeeping requirements contained in 47 CFR § 64.2009(c) and (e). However, at this point it is not clear that this will automatically happen, and thus the FCC is expected to issue some sort of clarification on this point.

In addition, existing CPNI rules will remain in place unless and until the FCC reforms the rules in regards to voice services. In summary, these rules are:

- * CPNI Use Restrictions (47 CFR § 4.2005)
- * Customer Approval Requirements (64.2007)
- * Notice Obligations (64.2008)

- * Security Safeguards (64.2009, 64.2010)
- * Breach notification requirements (64.2011)

With the nullification of the Broadband Privacy rules, and with the FCC's prior classification of BIAS as a telecommunications service, providers must still comply with Section 222 (CPNI) of the Telecommunications Act, which of course is the basis of the FCC's CPNI rules. However, with the current Republican Commission, it is unclear how the FCC will treat BIAS and providers going forward. Chairman Pai has stated that BIAS is subject to Section 222, while Commissioner O'Rielly has disagreed.

At some point (hopefully soon), the Commission will have to provide clarification and guidance on this topic. The most likely scenario is for the Republican Commission to re-classify BIAS once again, putting it under the sole purview of the FTC.

We will keep you informed as further developments arise.



Alexicon at Work

Lifeline Rolling Recertification

Don't forget that the new Lifeline customer rolling recertification process should start this month, no later than April 27.

The rolling recertification process can be done on a monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly basis as long as the FCC's recertification rules are followed.

Please visit USAC's [website](#) for more information.



Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron
cbarron@alexicon.net