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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Court Lets Net Neutrality Rules Stand](#)

A federal appeals court on Monday rejected a request to review its decision upholding the Federal Communications Commission's net neutrality regulations. The victory for net neutrality supporters comes just days after FCC Chairman Ajit Pai announced that he is starting proceedings to repeal the rules, and could set the stage for a Supreme Court showdown.

[Pai: Advocates Misrepresent the Truth](#)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai says advocates of net neutrality are misrepresenting his plan to roll back the controversial Obama-era internet rules. "For example, saying that you will lose your internet access. That's simply absurd," Pai told Recode's Decode podcast on Wednesday.

[Dem: Pai May Have Violated Law](#)

Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Tuesday said the way that Federal Communications Chairman Ajit Pai introduced his plan to roll back net neutrality may have skirted the law. "He sounded more like a political person taking a political position than someone who was going to really inquiry into the best path forward," Schatz told reporters. "I think it is legally consequential."

[Gigabit Opportunity Act](#)

Introduced by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) yesterday, the Gigabit Opportunity Act, also known as the GO Act, aims to spur gigabit broadband deployment by using a range of tax breaks. In a statement, Capito said the GO Act "gives states flexibility, streamlines existing regulations and eliminates barriers to investment so we can better connect our low-income and rural communities."



Market Watch

[Enhanced Broadband WiFi Offering](#)

[Neonova Acquires API Digital](#)

[T-Mobile's Plan for 5G](#)

[Cellcom Wins 600 mhz License](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

FirstNet: All AT&T LTE Bands Available

A month after AT&T was officially named the partner for FirstNet, the group's CEO announced that all of AT&T's LTE bands will be available for public safety use by the end of this year. "One of the key benefits that this public-private partnership will make available to public safety is the availability of quality of service and priority access once a governor accepts the FirstNet State Plan ("opt in"), with preemption services expected to be made available on all AT&T LTE bands as soon as the end of this year," said Mike Poth, FirstNet CEO.

The Death of the Smartphone

My basic argument is that the end is near for the smartphone, in a number of ways. The shape, size, and design is mostly settled, and while smartphone companies are still cramming more technology into these devices, con-

sumers are showing very little interest in that. We're pretty happy with the handsets we have and there's no new must-have feature on the horizon.

Malware the Beating Heart of Cybercrime

Malware might seem like just an annoyance for some -- something which disrupts systems and causes downtime -- but it's a tool which lies at the very heart of cybercriminal operations, allowing organised gangs to carry out espionage, sabotage, or theft.

Windstream Fixed Wireless Technology

Windstream reported quarterly financial results and on a conference call with investors, company CEO Tony Thomas highlighted the growing importance of Windstream fixed wireless efforts.

Spam Targets Google Users

Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O) warned its users to beware of emails from known contacts asking them to click on a link to Google Docs after a large number of people turned to social media to complain that their accounts had been hacked. Google said on Wednesday that it had taken steps to protect users from the attacks by disabling offending accounts and removing malicious pages.



IN FOCUS:

Chairman Pai's First 100 Days

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai is on a roll since assuming his chairmanship under the Trump administration 100 days ago. A flurry of activity since then has affected issues ranging from [broadband privacy](#) to [business data services](#) (special access provided by price cap carriers). The latest target is the FCC's prior decisions on Net Neutrality, which the Chairman is working hard to overturn.

While the Chairman has been very consistent in his positions on Net Neutrality rules, the [statement](#) released resorts to the loaded term "regulating the Internet." An objective look at the FCC's Net Neutrality rules reveals no such thing—like the rules or not, the last FCC made it clear that the latest rules applied to broadband Internet access service, and provided ample forbearance to the Title II treatment of BIAS. On Net Neutrality, the Chairman may have a case, but it is couched in such dismissive and misleading language that it is hard to see.

The remaining Democrat on the Commission, Mignon Clyburn, is not giving the Chairman a free ride. On BDS, Ms. Clyburn issued a [blistering condemnation](#) of the majority's decision, calling the order "one of the worst I have seen in my years at the Commission." In short, Commissioner Clyburn claims the BDS order will result in a greater digital divide, especially for rural areas, schools, libraries, and hospitals. It will be interesting to see how the BDS order continues, and how the Chairman reacts to a dose of his own medicine.



Alexicon at Work

Vince Wiemer has been assisting a group of rural broadband providers with drafting legislation that would help address issues with the compensation by content providers for the use of rural broadband networks. The draft legislation, titled "Rural Broadband Network Preservation and Advancement Act of 2017", would provide a new compensation system for high cost, rural areas, and involves requiring certain "edge" providers to pay for access to customer through rural networks.

The program revolves around a pooling concept. The volume of data that is transported by a rural carrier will be measured on a quarterly basis. After deducting all costs that have been recovered from the Universal Service Fund, the remaining appropriate costs related to the construction and maintenance of rural broadband networks will be pooled every year. Edge providers will then be required to pay a portion of those remaining costs based on the volume of their data that is transported over the last mile. Finally, the money raised will be divided among all rural carriers to ensure that each is compensated for the data transported over their network.

Please contact Vince Wiemer (vwiemer@alexicon.net) for more information or if you have any questions.

Conferences and Meetings

Doug Kitch will attend the Arizona-New Mexico Telecommunications Association Meeting in Mescalero, NM on May 15-17.



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