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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[GAO Lifeline Report Finds Fraud, Abuse](#)

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report released Thursday details significant fraud and abuse in a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Lifeline program, which is designed to subsidize broadband and phone services for low-income households.

[Trump Nominates Carr to FCC](#)

President Donald Trump nominated FCC staffer Brendan Carr as the next Republican commissioner for the regulator. Carr currently serves as the FCC's general counsel. Prior to becoming general counsel, Carr served as Pai's legal adviser on wireless, public safety and international issues. Earlier, he was an attorney at Wiley Rein, LLP.

[Verizon on Copper Retirement Rules](#)

Verizon has asked the FCC to get rid of the so-called de facto retirements from its copper retirement definition, arguing that it could create uncertainty in the process of shutting down legacy facilities. In the FCC's 2015

Technology Transitions Order, the FCC defined "copper retirement" as the "removal or disabling of copper loops, subloops, or the feeder portion of such loops or subloops, or the replacement of such loops with fiber-to-the-home loops or fiber-to-the curb loops."

[Rural Call Completion Data Report](#)

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) has released a Report analyzing rural call completion data collected over two years from "covered providers" (including LECs, interexchange carriers, CMRS providers, and VoIP providers) pursuant to the FCC's Rural Call Completion requirements.

[FCC to Reexamine MTE Competition](#)

The FCC has opened an Inquiry to reexamine the state of broadband competition in residential and commercial multiple tenant environments (MTEs). MTEs are commercial or residential premises such as apartment buildings, condominium buildings, shopping malls, or cooperatives that are occupied by...



Market Watch

[Broadband Investment of \\$130b-\\$150b Needed](#)

[Disruption of the Traditional Bundles](#)

[Ranking FTTH 1 Gbps Pricing](#)

[Turn WiFi Challenges Into Opportunities](#)



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Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron

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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Calix Gambles on Reboot

In early June, at the historic St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, Calix did something its executive team says it hasn't done in the company's 18-year history: gather an array of industry analysts and trade media to hear a company presentation. The occasion? What they believe is groundbreaking technology and business change within the company.

Cisco Updates IoT Platforms

Following Cisco's launch last week of its Digital Network Architecture (DNA), which delivers intent-based networking solutions and services, this week's Cisco Live event in Las Vegas was highly focused on networking. Only a few announcements were made, but the Internet of Things (IoT) made the cut.

Global Cyberattack Epidemic

The latest global cyberattack is a reminder that the era of cyber insecurity is here, expert John Carlin told CNBC on Tuesday. Hackers hit companies and government officials across Europe on Tuesday, causing widespread disruption. "We are facing a global epidemic of cyberattacks because fundamentally the internet ... is not secure. The highest end actors can get into your systems if they want to," Carlin, chairman of the Aspen Institute's cybersecurity and technology program, told "Power Lunch."

37% of Adults at Risk for IoT Hack

Millions of people worldwide are at serious risk of hacking, but are unaware that their internet-connected devices may be vulnerable to attack, according to a new report from consumer security specialist BullGuard.

Oklahoma WiFi Pilot Program

Many rural Oklahomans still do not have internet in their homes. The 2015 U.S. Census data puts rural broadband adoption at less than 65 percent in the state — lower than many of Oklahoma's neighbors including Kansas and Texas.



IN FOCUS: Broadband Privacy Rules Clarification

As a result of the FCC's Broadband Privacy Rules being eliminated under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) earlier this year, the Commission issued a "ministerial" [order](#) yesterday clarifying the status of certain rules. Specifically, the rules in place prior to the Broadband Privacy Order have been reinstated.

In essence, this means the annual CPNI certifications are required again, with the next filing due March 1, 2018. In addition, the Commission reminds ISPs that they are subject to Section 222 (privacy) but "need not comply with the Commission's implementing rules as result of the forbearance granted in the Title II [Open Internet] Order."

As is normal these days at the FCC, there seems to have been a little disagreement between Commissioner Clyburn and the Republican majority. According to Chairman Pai, the full commission, as opposed to the Wireline Competition Bureau, addressed this "ministerial" issue at the request of Commissioner Clyburn. However, Chairman Pai stated "when a Commissioner does not share her concerns about an item until after she casts her vote, it makes it difficult to work together to find common ground."

For her part, Commissioner Clyburn expressed concern about the "simplistic treatment" of the CRA and opined that it seems "facile and bull-headed to move forward with an Order without seeking comment on how the CRA impacts this proceeding."

Regardless of the sniping between Chairman Pai and Commissioner Clyburn, a couple of things are clear. First, and as described by Commissioner Clyburn, "the FCC is taking a weed-whacker" to FCC rules. Second, this weed-whacker approach can be beneficial or detrimental to companies required to comply with these rules, depending on the rule and whether a reasonable cost-benefit analysis has been performed. In large part, pruning (to continue the metaphor) FCC rules is an exercise well overdue, but to eliminate rules where companies may have spent substantial time and resources in ensuring compliance may, as suggested by Commissioner Clyburn, call for a more cautious approach.



Alexicon at Work

Form 481

The annual Form 481 filings are in large part complete, with USAC, 2 FCC filings, and state/Tribal government filings done. If you haven't completed and filed your Form 481, or haven't heard from us regarding the completed filings, please contact us immediately.

CAF Phase II Update

The Wireline Competition Bureau [released](#) an updated list of census blocks that will be eligible for the upcoming CAF Phase II competitive auction. One issue raised in the Public Notice is whether any of the listed census blocks are located in RoR carrier study areas. Alexicon is currently working through the substantial amounts of data involved to determine if any of the census blocks listed should be removed. If necessary, we plan on filing comments by July 7 for any affected clients.

Conferences and Meetings

Doug Kitch is attending the Pennsylvania Telephone Association Annual Meeting in Hershey, PA on July 10-12.



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