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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Behind the CAF Ph. II REC Consortium](#)

When 21 rural electric cooperatives decided to submit a joint bid to receive funding for gigabit broadband in the Connect America Fund II auction, their reason was a simple one.

[Firms Defend the Sprint/T-Mobile Deal](#)

Last month, Reuters reported that T-Mobile was asking the small operators that resell T-Mobile's excess network capacity to write letters and opinion pieces in support of the company's proposed \$36 billion merger with Sprint.

[Court Preempts State VoIP Regulation](#)

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has affirmed that state efforts to regulate information services are preempted by federal law. That decision came in Charter Advanced Services LLC v. Lange (the state of Minnesota's effort to regulate interconnected VoIP).

[Pai Calls Out Tech Companies](#)

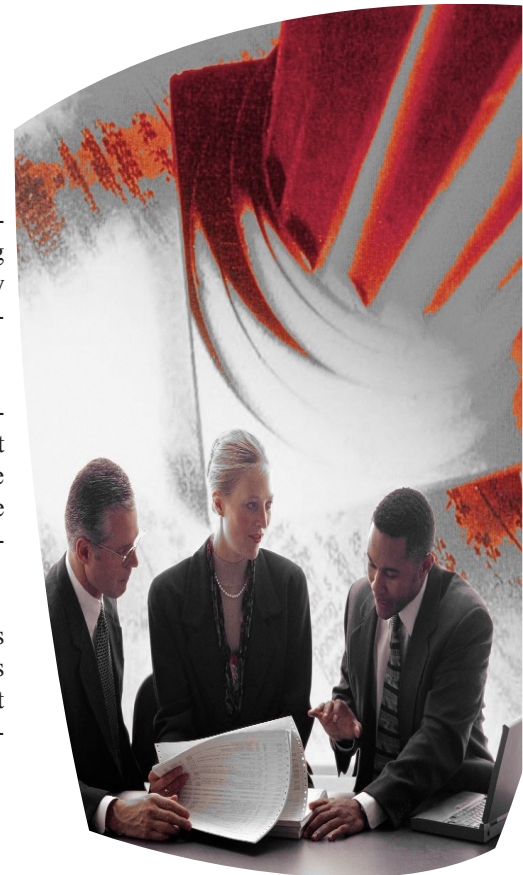
Ajit Pai, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), is calling for greater oversight of major technology companies as Congress prepares to grill executives from Facebook and Twitter this week.

[Agency to Establish Privacy Framework](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced Tuesday that it will begin to create a framework to guide organizations on how they can protect the information of individuals using their products or services.

[Court Upholds BDS Deregulation](#)

The 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has denied petitions filed by two separate groups seeking review of a 2017 FCC Order that alters the Commission's regulations for business data services (BDS).



Market Watch

[Will Data Traffic Growth Ever Slow Down?](#)

[U.S. Connected Device Forecast](#)

[uCPE Sector Will Cross \\$1 billion by 2022](#)

[Baltimore Digital Divide Program](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

AT&T AirGig: 100meg Rural Broadband

AT&T hopes its AirGig technology for piggy-backing high-speed data links on power lines will arrive in 2021, potentially improving broadband in areas where it's not economical to lay fiber-optic cables. AirGig doesn't connect directly to houses. Instead, it sends data hopping along from power pole to power pole so it can traverse relatively long distances.

Media/Telecom Traffic Grows

It's no secret that the media industry and the telecom industry are rapidly becoming intertwined. Indeed, an increasing number of telecom companies are investing in the media space while, concurrently, media companies continue to partner with telecom companies in order to get their content in front of viewers. Further, it's clear that technologies on both sides of this intersection are increasingly bringing players together...

Start-Up May Offer Low-Latency Service

After cutting its teeth on a direct-to-consumer offering, an Atlanta-based startup called Haste is holding talks with cable operators and other ISPs about how to package and sell co-branded offerings centered on its low-latency service targeted to PC gamers. In addition to giving cable operators a way to differentiate their broadband services and appeal to a passionate and vibrant demographic, such a partnership could also open up a new revenue stream for service providers.

Online Security 101

Privacy is what sets us apart from the animals. It's also what sets many countries and citizens apart from dictatorships and despots. People often don't think about their rights until they need them -- whether it's when they're arrested at a protest or pulled over for a routine traffic stop.

Blockchain Unwrapped

Blockchain will be put through its paces during an inter-carrier proof of concept by several vendors and carriers at MEF18 in October. Service providers CBCcom, PCCW Global, Sparkle and Tata Communications will team up with Clear Blockchain Technologies and Cataworx to show how telcos can use blockchain to enable services such as bandwidth on demand, IoT, voice, and...



IN FOCUS:

More On Broadband Measurement

As we reported in the July 11, 2018 Special Bulletin, several FCC Bureaus released an [order](#) adopting procedures for measuring broadband performance as required by section 54.313 of the FCC's rules. Since then, several details have been clarified, but many remain unclear, and at least one party is planning on filing a petition for reconsideration or application for review asking for different treatment or clarification.

First, providers will be able to use the Measuring Broadband America (MBA) "whiteboxes" developed by [SamKnows](#). Costs related to this option can only be determined after executing a nondisclosure agreement with this company. In addition, and as previously reported, carriers may also use off-the-shelf solutions (for example, utilizing a single-board computer such as Raspberry Pi) or may develop the solution internally.

Second, the testing, regardless of method chosen, will take place between the customer interface (i.e., ONT) and the gateway (customer or carrier-provided), and thus will have to involve customer activity to both install and to implement.

Third, there is substantial uncertainty as to how soon some of the off-the-shelf solutions will be available, as these solutions have yet to hit the market and are of unknown cost.

Fourth, several of the adopted requirements could cause problems,

such as excluding speed measurements that are above 150% of the advertised speed. Many carriers allow customers to receive burst traffic that could affect this testing parameter.

Finally, as mentioned in the July 11, 2018 Special Bulletin, it appears that only carriers with specified buildout obligations—ACAM and Alaska Plan carriers and certain CAF BLS recipients—are required to perform the testing. However, there is some question as to whether this is a correct reading of the FCC's rule and therefore clarification is being sought.

Applications for Review of the broadband testing order are due September 19, and there is expected to be at least one filed on behalf of rural LECs addressing some or all of the above issues. In the meantime, as things stand testing must begin in 3Q2019 so it is probably wise to begin plans on how to comply should the FCC decide to stay the course.



Alexicon at Work

RUS e-Connectivity Comments. Alexicon filed brief comments in response to the Rural Utilities Service's Notice of Inquiry on its Broadband e-Connectivity Pilot Program. Those comments are being distributed with this Alexicon Insider.

Conferences and Meetings

Chris Barron, Doug Kitch, Dion Nero, and Rob Strait will attend NTCA's Fall Conference on September 16-19 in Seattle, WA.



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