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# Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE  
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Headlines

### [Net Neutrality Rules Expire June 11](#)

Landmark U.S. “net neutrality” rules will expire on June 11, and new regulations handing providers broad new power over how consumers can access the internet will take effect, the Federal Communications Commission said on Thursday in setting the date. The FCC in December repealed the Obama-era open-internet rules set in 2015, which bars providers from blocking or slowing down access to content or charging consumers more for certain content.

### [Senate Dems Move on Net Neutrality](#)

Senate Democrats on Wednesday formally launched their push to bring a vote on restoring net neutrality protections to the Senate floor. “I believe that today kicks off the most important day for the internet that the Senate has ever seen,” said Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), who is spearheading the net neutrality push in the Senate.

### [FCC Issues \\$120m Robocall Fine](#)

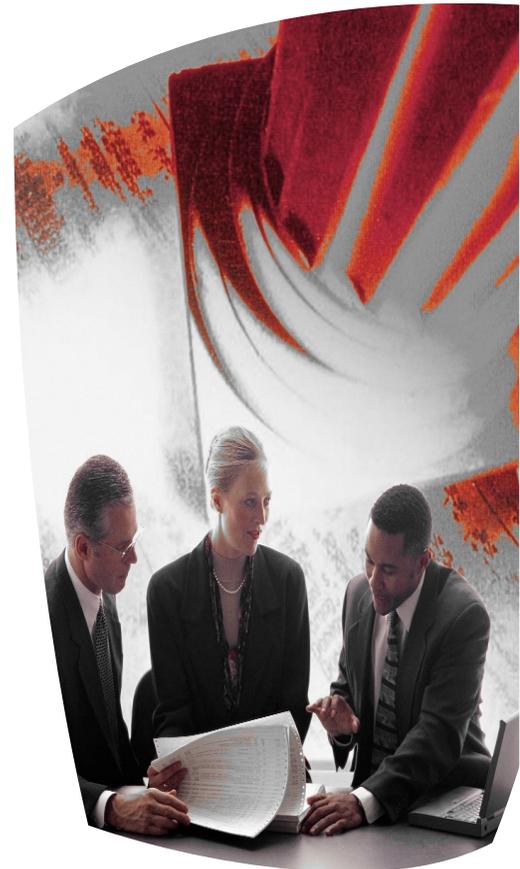
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Thursday announced that it had issued a \$120 million fine to a man in Florida for making millions of robocalls. The FCC said on Thursday that it formally handed Adrian Abramovich the record fine for making almost 100 million robocalls in three months.

### [FCC to Free Up 2.5 GHz EBS Spectrum](#)

The FCC is getting set to free up as much as 194 MHz of unused spectrum in the educational broadband service (EBS) band, primarily in rural areas.

### [FCC Upholds USAC Lifeline Decision](#)

The FCC has released an order denying 14 separate requests for review filed by nine, non-facilities-based Lifeline wireless carriers. Starting in 2012, the Commission began taking various steps to combat Lifeline program waste, fraud and abuse.



## Market Watch

[U.S. Agricultural IoT Market Could be \\$4b](#)

[ZTE Halts Operations](#)

[Fidelity Expands Missouri Gigabit](#)

[T-Mobile Eyes Spectrum for 5G Backhaul](#)



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# Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

## WannaCry Ransomware Anniversary

It's been a year since the gigantic WannaCry ransomware cyber attack caused chaos across the world, hitting more than 230,000 computers in total. The hard-drive encrypting malware spread so fast because the group behind it had combined normal malware with EternalBlue, a leaked NSA hacking tool which allowed WannaCry to use worm-like capabilities to self-propagate on vulnerable Windows systems.

## Amazon Rolls Out Model Smart Homes

Amazon.com Inc on Wednesday said it has set up model "smart" homes across the United States for shoppers to experience what it's like for voice aide Alexa to dim the lights, turn on the TV or order more laundry detergent. The rollout underscores how Amazon aims to make Alexa and the company's growing list of services, from shopping and entertainment to home security, an everyday part of consumers'

lives.

## Comcast Motion Insights Tracks Traffic

Comcast Business today announced the launch of Comcast Business SmartOffice Motion Insights, an application aimed at helping businesses understand and better react to how people move through their businesses. Comcast Motion Insights is part of the company's SmartOffice solution.

## Trump Administration on AI

At a meeting that mingled industry, academia, and government, the Trump White House framed AI as a path to continued economic dominance over other nations. The exercise also seemed to expose an administration that lags other countries—and even its US predecessor—in developing its views and strategy on AI's implications and government's role in managing them.

## Cisco: Retool Network Engineers

In an era of software-defined everything, if you're not actively "reskilling" your network engineers to be fluent in software, or at least thinking about it, your partner business will fall behind. That was the message conveyed in a Cisco-sponsored virtual roundtable on "The Future of Networking," moderated by Zeus Kerravala, founder and principal analyst, ZK Research.

## IN FOCUS:

### Rural Call Completion

In its continuing efforts to address rural call completion problems, and in response to the recently passed Rural Call Completion act, the FCC issued a [Second Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) that revises the rules originally adopted in 2007, 2012, and 2013.

First, the FCC adopts a rule requiring "covered providers" to monitor the performance of intermediate providers to which they hand off calls. Intermediate providers are also to make available a point of contact for rural call completion issues. The new monitoring requirement includes both prospective (i.e., evaluate intermediate providers) and retrospective (i.e., investigation) components, as well as requirements regarding remedying problems detected during retrospective monitoring. Finally, covered providers are given "flexibility in how they fulfill this [monitoring] responsibility to determine the standards and methods best suited to their individual networks."

Second, a reporting requirement for covered providers established in 2013 is eliminated. Previously, covered providers were required to report quarterly to the FCC (by OCN) total number of call attempts, total number of answered calls, and the number of call attempts that were not answered. While covered carriers are still required, for now, to record and retain such information, they will no longer have to make the quarterly reports to the FCC.

In the FNPRM, the FCC asks for comment on a number of topics, including:

- \* Certain intermediate providers must register with the FCC
- \* Covered providers may not use unregistered intermediate providers
- \* Service quality standards for intermediate providers
- \* Enforcement of intermediate provider requirements
- \* Exception to service quality standards for safe harbor covered providers
- \* RCC Act definitions
- \* Sunset of recording and retention rules

*Overall, these rule revisions do not have much potential for addressing the continuing rural call completion problems (i.e., false ring tones, busy signals when the called party's phone never rings, inaccurate caller ID, etc). According to the FCC's own data, rural call completion complaints filed by consumers in 2017 are up by 81% over 2016. In essence, in the name of reducing the reporting burden to covered, the FCC reverted the rules back to 2012 and removes anything not specifically listed in the statute. It remains to be seen how the new self-monitoring rules will work and what else the FCC decides to change as a result of the 3rd FNPRM.*



## Alexicon at Work

Chris Barron and Doug Kitch will attend and present at the Small Company Coalition annual meeting on May 17-18 in Richardson, Texas.

Dion Nero and Rob Strait will attend the Alaska Telephone Association Annual Meeting in Homer, Alaska on May 21-23.



Questions? Comments?  
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