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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Industry Broadband Mapping Fix

In these politically divisive times, there's at least one thing lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can agree on: The way we track who in America does or doesn't have broadband stinks. The Federal Communications Commission uses maps that are often wildly inaccurate, stating there's broadband service in places where there isn't and in other instances saying a location has no broadband when in fact it does, sometimes from multiple providers.

Senate Broadband Mapping Bill

A group of Democratic and Republican Senators have introduced into Congress a proposed piece of legislation that would improve the FCC's broadband coverage maps. Specifically, the Improving Broadband Mapping Act (S.842)

FCC Spectrum Auction Public Notice

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai announced that the commission at its April 12 open meeting will consider a public notice on auction procedures for the upper 37, 39 and 47 GHz spectrum bands.

FCC Can't Track Fake Comments

The FCC admitted in court this week that its Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) does not track where comments submitted to the system originate. The filing is part of a lawsuit the FCC is facing from The New York Times.

80% Support Net Neutrality

Eighty percent of Americans say they support net neutrality, a boon to Democrats who are currently pushing legislation on the issue in the House, according to a new poll from Comparitech. The Comparitech survey, which tracks with other polls that have found high levels of support for net neutrality among U.S. voters, was conducted a week after Democrats introduced...



Market Watch

[T-Mobile Home Broadband Trial](#)

[CBRS Alliance Plans 5G on 3.5 Ghz](#)

[5G Opportunities for Wireline Carriers](#)

[Comcast Targets Internet-Only Subscribers](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

SHAKEN, and STIRed

AT&T and Comcast said today that they have exchanged calls verified with SHAKEN/STIR unwanted and illegal robocall-fighting technology. The SHAKEN/STIR protocol is designed to verify that the phone number displayed via caller ID is the same number from which the call was placed. The service providers said they expect to begin offering authentication on calls between networks to customers later this year.

SCOTUS Jeopardizes Google Settlement

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday put in jeopardy an \$8.5 million settlement Google made with users to resolve a class action lawsuit accusing it of violating their privacy by sharing users' search queries with other websites. The justices, in an unsigned opinion, threw out a ruling by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that had upheld the settlement, directing it to take a fresh look at whether the plaintiffs had the legal standing necessary to sue

Cloud Providers Muddy Ethernet Market

Thanks in part to varied deployments by cloud service providers, the adapter market was somewhat volatile in the fourth quarter, according to a report. A new report by Dell'Oro Group found that shipments of high-speed Ethernet controllers and adapters—25 Gbps and faster—had mixed results in the fourth quarter of last year. During the same time frame, shipment of 10 Gbps adapters declined after six quarters of sequential growth as the enterprise server refresh cycle slowed.

AT&T Opens API Marketplace

AT&T has opened an application programming interface (API) marketplace to help businesses quickly build collaboration apps for their voice, text and other communications services. The new AT&T API Marketplace provides businesses with prepackaged API software code. It is built on Ribbon Communications' Kandy platform.

Google's New Gaming Service

Google on Tuesday officially announced its new game streaming platform, Stadia, aimed toward building a unified platform for game developers, players and YouTube creators. The internet giant said that Stadia is launching first in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Europe in 2019. The company promised more details this summer on launch titles. Google did not reveal pricing for the



IN FOCUS Rural Call Completion

The FCC released its [4th Report and Order](#) addressing rural call completion issues, this time in furtherance of its implementation of the [Improving Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017](#) (RCC Act). The FCC started this process in 2013, and with the latest order, tasks intermediate providers to “take steps reasonably calculated to ensure that any calls they handle are in fact completed.”

The FCC expects to meet the mandates set out in the RCC Act by adopting flexible service quality standards for intermediate providers that require active monitoring of traffic routed to rural areas related to any directly-contracted downstream intermediate providers and, based on the results of such monitoring, take steps to address any performance issues. Also, intermediate providers must ensure that any additional intermediate providers to which they hand off calls are registered with the Commission.

Enforcement of these flexible intermediate provider rules will take place via the registration process, which the FCC finds is tantamount to a license. Depending on the circumstances, the FCC could de-register an offending intermediate provider, which would then lead to that provider's inability to provide service.

The FCC also sunsets the rural call completion data recording and retention requirements established in 2013 in the First Report and

Order. This change will be effective one year after the service quality standards adopted have taken effect. According to the FCC, this data provides little benefit over the burden placed on the covered providers, and is based on a 2017 [report](#) generated by the Wireline Competition Bureau. The WCB found the data to be collected—calls signaled as Answered, Busy, Ring No Answer, and Unassigned—was being reported inconsistently.

While any step taken to combat rural call completion problems ,the elimination of data recording and retention is concerning. NTCA perhaps said it best:

We are concerned, however, that aspects of today's action could open the door for backsliding with respect to rural call completion, leaving rural Americans waiting once again for calls that are placed but never arrive. Specifically, with today's elimination of the last traces of record-keeping and reporting on call completion, it will be all the more important now for the FCC to pair the new call router registry and higher-level monitoring measures with more aggressive enforcement to ensure that we don't take steps backward as a nation in ensuring calls reach their intended destination.



Alexicon at Work

Alexicon consultants are gearing up for cost study season, so you may be contacted soon to set up a visit to gather information and in general ensure this year's cost studies are as good as they can be.

Doug Kitch, Zach Cochran, and Chris Barron will visit Washington, D.C. on April 4-5 to discuss broadband mapping with various interested parties.



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