

- ▶ FCC APPROVES ACAM II SUPPORT
- ▶ FCC AUTHORIZES TRIBAL AREA SUPPORT
- ▶ STARKS VISITS MESCALERO, NM
- ▶ GROUP EFFORT ON ROBOCALLS
- ▶ FCC TO CONSIDER LIFELINE OVERSIGHT
- ▶ FCC FINES KIMMEL, THE WALKING DEAD ...1

- ▶ WIRELINE BROADBAND GROWTH EASES
- ▶ BROADBAND SUBS WANT NO-COST SECURITY
- ▶ EDGE ECONOMY TO REACH \$4.1T BY 2030
- ▶ TDS EXPANDS FOOTPRINT IN NC ...1

- ▶ VIDEO THROTTLING PERVERSIVE
- ▶ 5G NOT GOING INDOORS SOON
- ▶ ALASKA HAD MOST CYBERCRIME VICTIMS
- ▶ 5G CAN AID FIRST RESPONDERS
- ▶ TELEMEDICINE SLOW TO HELP ELDERLY ...2

Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

FCC Approves ACAM II Support

The FCC has just approved nearly five billion dollars in subsidies for rural broadband operators to be paid out over the next 10 years. Recipients of this windfall will have to “maintain, improve, and expand” their broadband infrastructure, especially in underserved areas.

FCC Authorizes Tribal Area Support

Taking further steps to close the digital divide, the Federal Communications Commission today authorized support over the next decade for maintaining, improving, and expanding affordable broadband in 44,243 homes and businesses on Tribal lands nationwide.

Starks Visits Mescalero, NM

Last week, Commissioner Geoffrey Starks visited Tribal communities in New Mexico where he discussed the challenges of internet inequality with Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, the U.S. House Assistant Speaker, and community leaders.

Group Effort on Robocalls

Attorneys general from 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia will announce on Thursday they are joining forces with major telecommunications providers, including AT&T Inc, Verizon Communications Inc, Comcast Corp, Sprint Corp and T-Mobile Us Inc, to crack down on unwanted robocalls.

FCC to Consider Lifeline Oversight

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a proposal to curb what it sees as widespread abuse of a subsidy program to help low-income households connect to broadband and phone services.

FCC Fines Kimmel, The Walking Dead

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced it would be slapping fines after several shows, including “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and “The Walking Dead,” mis-used emergency alert tones.



Market Watch

- [Wireline Broadband Growth Eases](#)
- [Broadband Subs Want No-Cost Security](#)
- [Edge Economy to Reach \\$4.1T by 2030](#)
- [TDS Expands Footprint in NC](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

5G Not Going Indoors Soon

Most of today's 5G networks in the US, particularly those running in high-band spectrum, are specifically intended for customers who are walking around outside. When 5G subscribers go inside, they definitely won't get 5G. In fact, they might not even get 4G. And, according to a wide range of executives in the wireless industry, that situation is not going to change anytime soon.

Alaska Had Most Cybercrime Victims

For a second consecutive year, Alaska in 2018 ranked as the state where you're most likely to get scammed, with almost 22 cybercrime victims for every 1,000 residents, according to new data from CenturyLinkQuote. The authorized CenturyLink reseller examined the FBI's 2018 IC3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center) Report to identify the most at-risk states for internet scams. In 2018 alone, IC3 received 351,936 complaints with losses exceeding \$2.7 billion

5G Can Aid First Responders

5G could mean the difference between night and day for firefighters. With smoke, flames and a claustrophobic mask on, running into a burning building is a leap of faith. Firefighters are taught never to leave the wall, because they could become disoriented, run out of air and die. "The way we used to look for people was almost as if you were blind," said Harold Schapelhouman, fire chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Telemedicine Slow to Help the Elderly

It's easy enough for a doctor on an app to prescribe a birth control pill or an antibiotic. But try getting one to virtually examine your sick mom in a nursing home. Chances are, she'll end up instead being sent to the hospital, where bad problems often get worse.

Video Throttling Pervasive

A new study finds that wireless carriers continue to cramp the resolution of streaming video, and they do so unevenly and often unnecessarily, as their bandwidth routinely exceeds speeds necessary for high-definition streaming. "We find different network providers using different rate limits (e.g., 1.5 Mbps and 4 Mbps) and targeting a different set of apps (e.g., YouTube vs. Netflix)"



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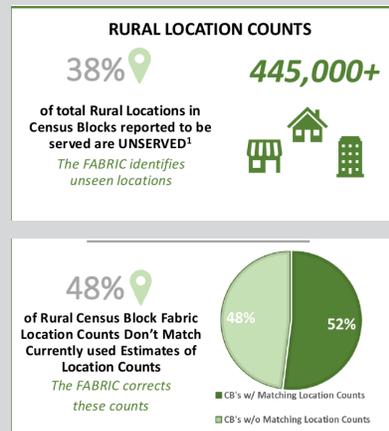
Broadband Mapping Coalition Pilot Results

The Broadband Mapping Coalition (BMC), a consortium consisting of USTelecom, ITTA, AT&T and others, [released](#) the [results](#) of its pilot testing related to the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (BSLF) data collection method. The FCC filing, titled "Broadband Mapping Initiative: Proof of Concept" details the efforts undertaken by CostQuest to identify locations that would reasonably be expected to require broadband service, and compares that effort to current alternatives such as those used by Form 477 and USAC's HUBB.

The BMC's pilot examined service provider areas in two states—Missouri and Virginia— "to demonstrate the feasibility of identifying the precise number and location of every structure in the states that require broadband access – referred to as the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric or BSLF). This Fabric of broadband serviceable structures makes it possible to precisely map where broadband is available and more importantly, where it *isn't*." Not surprisingly, the pilot "revealed that 48% of the location counts in rural census blocks are different from current estimates, in many cases significantly different."

One of the problems the BSLF method tries to solve, as noted above, is identifying the locations not served in a given area (census block, etc). Currently, the Form 477 only gathers data at the census block level, and suffers from the "one served, all served" problem (service to one location area within a census block means the entire block is considered "served"). USAC's HUBB does gather location-specific data from certain carriers, but has problems with unreli-

ble geocoding methods and does not identify unserved locations. By using a combination of open and private data sources, such as county assessor data and Microsoft Rooftops, the BMC claims it can solve these problems.



The BMC recognizes the cost and further efforts necessary to implement the BSLF nationwide, but claims the pilot demonstrates it can and should be done.

The FCC requested comment on the BSLF method in conjunction with its overall reforms of broadband mapping—the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (DODC). While a new polygon shape method was adopted, the technical details have yet to be established, and the BSLF should be easily overlaid on top

of any type of new availability reporting process adopted by the FCC.



Alexicon at Work

As noted above and in the August 8 *Special Bulletin*, the FCC adopted the new DODC methodology via Report and Order, and requested further input on the polygon data gathering method and the BSLF via a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Comments are due on September 23, and replies are due October 7. Alexicon plans on filing comments covering issues such as the definition of location, adding a funding or funding commitment flag to the data, and other items necessary to ensure the DODC properly balances accuracy and filing burden.



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