

# CableFAX Daily™

Tuesday — February 19, 2013

What the Industry Reads First

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## Speed Report: Like '12, Most Cable Ops Meet/Exceed Advertised Speeds

The FCC's latest broadband speed report, released Fri, found little change from the '12 finding, with the exception of **Frontier**, which improved its performance by 13% (though it still apparently delivered less than advertised download speeds during peak hours). Other than that, the report found the average ISP delivered 97% of the advertised download speed, a slight improvement from last year's 96% and a big upgrade from 87% in '11. Again, cable beat DSL in sustained download speeds, delivering 99% of advertised speeds vs 85%, while fiber-to-the-home delivered 115%. Among the cable players, **Comcast** and **Cablevision** exceeded their advertised download speeds during peak hours, delivering 103% and 115% of promised speeds, respectively. While **Charter**, **Mediacom** and **Cox** were near the advertised speeds, **Time Warner Cable** came in below the thresholds (94%). For the first time, the report included satellite broadband. At 137%, **ViaSat** exceeded its promised download speeds. There were telcos: At 118% (of promised speeds), **Verizon FIOS** outshined **AT&T** (87%). **CenturyLink** is also below (87%). The report noted consumers continue to migrate to faster tiers and receive faster speeds "than ever before." The average speed tier increased from 14.3 Mbps to 15.6 Mbps. In addition, nearly half of consumers who subscribed to speeds of less than 1 Mbps 6 months ago have adopted higher speeds, and nearly a quarter of the users who subscribed to speeds between 1 Mbps and 3 Mbps have upgraded to faster speed tiers. That's perhaps the most important takeaway of the Commission's study, **NCTA** said in a blog post. The improved popularity of high-speed tiers is reflective of the fact that broadband providers are consistently working to improve service, quality and reach," the trade group said. For the first time, the study also included Verizon's FiOS Quantum speed tiers of 50/25 Mbps and 75/35 Mbps, launched last summer. Looking ahead, the Commission expects to implement another one-month testing period for fixed broadband and to release an update to this report. The next testing period is scheduled for Sept, 1 year from the testing period analyzed in the current report. Over the next year, the agency expects that providers will continue to increase their offerings in the higher speed tiers, citing the deployment of DOCSIS 3.1 technology. The cable industry has said it intends to extend its services to rates beyond 100 Mbps, both to support future services like 4K and to compete with fiber-based providers, the agency said, noting Verizon fiber is now offering rates up to 300 Mbps in some markets while **Google** offers 1 Gbps services in Kansas City, MO. Additionally, the FCC plans to test mobile broadband speeds and identify other areas of broadband performance that "impact the overall consumer experience."

**Dodd Speaks:** Speaking at the **National Press Club** Fri, **MPPA** chief *Chris Dodd* discussed violence in the media and underlined the importance of preserving an open and free Internet while protecting copyrights. The former Democratic senator from CT defended the film/TV industry against claims by the **NRA** that violent video content should be blamed for recent mass shootings. Calling NRA's accusations "predictable," he said the film/TV industry is committed to working with the Administration to address gun violence. He sees 3 pieces playing a key role: Choice, control and edu-

100  
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Best Advice/Motto Series



*"Work hard, but have fun."*

**Glenn Britt**  
Chairman/CEO,  
Time Warner Cable

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caution. "We strongly believe in control," especially for parents, Dodd said, calling efforts to regulate content "a slippery slope." Dodd also called for more focus on efforts to improve mental health services. Meanwhile, Dodd noted how easy it is to view video content on digital platforms, which increases the need to protect the content from theft. "We must strike a balance between the desire for a free and open Internet and the protection of intellectual property," he said. "Content needs technology. Technology needs content" and the issue becomes if the 2 can co-exist, he said, noting the MPAA is working with companies like **Google** to get illegal content off. Dodd said regulation isn't the answer. "I am not enthusiastic about legislating in this area," he said. "Stop asking people to pick one side of this equation."

**SCTE:** To avoid a conflict that had resulted from "unprecedented changes" in dates for several major EU events, **SCTE** rescheduled its Cable-Tec Expo for Oct 21-24 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The original date's Sept 18-20 in New Orleans. "SCTE Cable-Tec Expo and the IBC conference and exposition in Amsterdam are the two must-attend fall events for cable executives," said *Mark Dzuban*, head of SCTE. "Rather than force participants and attendees to divide their focuses between two events and two continents, we've taken a flexible approach that puts the needs of the industry first."

**Business & Finance:** In an **SEC** filing Fri, **DISH** revealed that it will take a \$45mln pretax charge related to its **Blockbuster** UK unit, which is undergoing a process similar to Chapter 11 in the US. The writeoff has resulted from the UK business' failure to find a buyer of its asset. The satellite company acquired Blockbuster in April '11 for \$226mln.

**Earnings Prediction:** Ahead of **Charter's** Feb 22 4Q earnings report, **S&P** raised its target price by \$10 to \$90 on "ample" estimated '13 earnings vs peers plus "uniquely attractive tax attributes." However, 4Q could be affected by the recent announcement of the pending acquisition of **Optimum West** cable systems (formerly **Bresnan**). Meanwhile, 4Q should "highlight some progress with ongoing pricing and packaging initiatives," S&P said.

**Programming:** **RLTV's** new series "Who's Cooking with Florence Henderson," which features celebrity chef *Govind Armstrong*, will premiere Feb 27 at 9pm. – The **Science Channel** is scheduled to premiere the special "Russian Meteor Explosion" Sat at 8pm. A meteor weighing nearly 11 tons streaked across the sky and broke up over a Russian mountain city Fri, injuring nearly 1K people. Meanwhile, a 13-story-sized asteroid will pass within 17,100 miles of Earth this weekend before heading off into space. Talk about a Freaky Friday!

**People:** **CNN** hired *Allison Gollust*, NY governor *Andrew Cuomo's* communications director in the past 4 months, to be svp, communications, reuniting Gollust with her longtime colleague *Jeff Zucker*, head of **CNN Worldwide**. Gollust was evp, corporate communications for **NBCUniversal**. -- *Juliana Gruenwald*, former **National Journal** reporter, is the new **NTIA** press secretary. -- Long-time **CableLabs** vet *David Reed* joined U of Colorado - Boulder's Interdisciplinary Telecom Program as a resident scholar.

**Obituary:** *Billy Lee "Bill" Medlin*, former manager of the **Cable TV Systems and Manufacturing** and past pres of the **Texas Cable TV Association**, 78, passed away Feb 12. Services will be Feb 17 at 2pm at First Baptist Church in Mineral Wells. He is survived by his wife *Marge Medlin*, his children and grandchildren. -- *Deacon Bill Steltemeier*, founding pres/chmn of the board of **EWTN**, passed away on Feb 15 in his home in Hanceville, AL, after an extended illness. He's survived by his wife *Ramona*, his brother, several nieces and their families.

## The CableFAXIES awards

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2013

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The CableFaxies Awards salute the year's most outstanding communications initiatives and programs in the highly competitive and dynamic Cable arena. The coveted awards set the industry benchmark for excellence across all areas of PR and marketing.

The Winners of the CableFAXIES Awards are from networks, operators, PR firms, vendors, corporations, agencies and other entertainment companies who took chances, made tremendous strides and understand the power of PR and marketing in the cable industry. The winners and honorable mentions will be saluted during an awards event in May 2013 in New York City.

**CableFAX Week in Review**

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>				
DIRECTV:	DTV	49.19	(7.29%)	(1.93%)
DISH:	DISH	36.93	(1.89%)	1.46%
DISNEY:	DIS	55.61	1.74%	11.69%
GE:	GE	23.29	3.51%	10.96%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	29.34	1.52%	11.81%
<b>MSOS</b>				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	15.15	1.20%	1.41%
CHARTER:	CHTR	79.54	(1.67%)	4.33%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	41.24	6.43%	10.39%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	39.41	5.52%	9.72%
GCI:	GNCMA	8.26	0.85%	(13.87%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	65.61	(3.53%)	4.21%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	21.58	0.37%	9.65%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	23.65	0.21%	2.92%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	86.94	(2.15%)	(10.55%)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	44.97	(1.79%)	22.37%
WASH POST:	WPO	414.41	3.95%	13.47%

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>				
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	59.68	2.70%	20.57%
CBS:	CBS	44.64	4.23%	17.32%
CROWN:	CRWN	1.99	4.74%	7.57%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	70.30	(1.64%)	10.74%
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV	27.78	(0.39%)	4.51%
HSN:	HSNI	57.93	(3.37%)	5.17%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	41.70	(4.62%)	(11.73%)
LIONSGATE:	LGF	20.41	6.69%	24.45%
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	7.71	2.66%	1.45%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	62.16	3.36%	7.32%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	53.52	1.81%	11.90%
VALUEVISION:	VTV	2.88	0.00%	60.00%
VIACOM:	VIA	62.15	(0.03%)	14.52%
WWE:	WWE	8.66	2.12%	9.76%

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>				
ADDVANTAGE:	AEY	2.21	6.76%	11.06%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.54	(10.47%)	10.79%
AMDOS:	DOX	36.07	0.53%	6.12%
AMPHENOL:	APH	70.42	(0.03%)	8.84%
AOL:	AOL	39.52	17.20%	33.47%
APPLE:	AAPL	460.16	(3.12%)	(13.53%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	17.11	4.14%	14.52%
AVID TECH:	AVID	7.89	4.78%	4.09%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	34.44	3.61%	3.70%
CISCO:	CSCO	20.99	(0.8%)	6.82%
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	3.16	(1.25%)	9.34%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.92	(0.63%)	37.98%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	16.75	(1.99%)	2.07%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	20.28	5.13%	11.55%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	38.89	(0.15%)	13.65%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	792.89	0.96%	12.09%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.68	6.17%	12.03%
INTEL:	INTC	21.11	0.55%	2.40%
JDSU:	JDSU	15.17	(0.26%)	12.37%
LEVEL 3:	LVT	20.81	(15.3%)	(9.95%)
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	28.01	1.67%	4.87%

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
RENTRAK:	RENT	21.58	0.94%	10.72%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	11.59	2.48%	19.86%
SONY:	SNE	14.34	(3.89%)	28.04%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.91	2.43%	4.23%
TIVO:	TIVO	13.09	(0.91%)	6.34%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	19.00	0.96%	(1.81%)
VONAGE:	VG	2.69	10.25%	13.50%
YAHOO:	YHOO	21.02	2.51%	5.60%

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>TELCOS</b>				
AT&T:	T	35.36	0.26%	4.89%
VERIZON:	VZ	44.40	0.11%	2.61%

Company	Ticker	2/15 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
<b>MARKET INDICES</b>				
DOW:	DJI	13981.76	(0.08%)	6.70%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	3192.03	(0.06%)	5.71%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1519.79	0.12%	6.56%

**WINNERS & LOSERS**

**THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS**

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. AOL:	39.52	17.20%
2. VONAGE:	2.69	10.25%
3. ADDVANTAGE:	2.21	6.76%
4. LIONSGATE:	20.41	6.69%
5. COMCAST:	41.24	6.43%

**THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS**

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. LEVEL 3:	20.81	(15.3%)
2. ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.54	(10.47%)
3. BLNDER TONGUE:	1.42	(7.79%)
4. DIRECTV:	49.19	(7.29%)
5. INTERACTIVE CORP:	41.70	(4.62%)

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