

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Waive On: FCC Gives Charter Integration Ban Waiver

Charter got its wish, with the **FCC** Media Bureau granting its request for a 2-year waiver of the set-top integration ban. And the MSO sure seemed happy. "By granting the waiver, the FCC has helped expedite Charter's ability to deliver a next-generation, all-digital network," the company said. "The many consumer benefits of an all-digital network include better video services and higher internet speeds. As we convert to an all-digital footprint, we have committed to offering 100Mbps service to an additional 200,000 homes and will continue to support legacy boxes with separable security." The waiver, which overrides a ban on integrated security for set-tops that went into effect July 1, '07, does come with conditions: the MSO must transition all of its cable systems to all-digital within 9 months of the 2-year waiver's expiration and make broadband Internet access service of 100Mbps+ available to 200K additional homes before full expiration. Charter also must adopt the same downloadable security system used by **Cablevision** (which was previously granted an FCC waiver). The thought is that other operators considering downloadable security will adopt the same established technology, thus increasing the likelihood that 3rd party manufacturers develop retail devices, the Bureau said. Other conditions: Charter must attest that it's engaged in good faith negotiations with a CE manufacturer that intends to develop a set-top sold at retail, and that can be used with Charter's systems and its downloadable security. Charter also must continue to support CableCARDS. Once a security-compatible 3rd party device is available at retail, the MSO will no longer have to provide new CableCARDS to customers. Charter in Nov requested the waiver, which both **CEA** and the **AllVid Tech Company Alliance** had opposed.

Abbas is Back: Former **NCTC** head *Jeff Abbas* was named pres of Toledo, OH-based **Buckeye Cablevision**, effective May 13. Former Buckeye pres and gm *Brad Mefferd* will remain with the company as evp. "We are fortunate to attract a man of Mr. Abbas' training and experience to lead Buckeye in these challenging times, as the cable industry faces pressure from unrelenting programming costs, rapidly changing technology, and increased competition from Web-based programming sources," said *Allan Block*, chmn of Buckeye's parent **Block Comm**. Abbas was pres/CEO of independent operator co-op **NCTC** from '05 until his resignation in '11. Before joining NCTC in '03, he was vp, programming for Adelphia. "I'm eager to serve the Buckeye customers in providing them a robust suite of

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features and programming, and build on the excellent customer service that always has been a hallmark of the company,” Abbas said in a statement.

Sports Talk: Pac-12 Ent said pres *Gary Stevenson* is leaving his position. *Lydia Murphy-Stephans*, who has been evp and gm of **Pac-12 Networks** since their Aug '12 inception, is being elevated to pres, Pac-12 Networks. Stevenson said “a good time for me to move on to my next adventure” now that the Pac-12 nets have “successfully launched.” -- **Suddenlink** is trying to argue that **Comcast's CSN Houston** is not an RSN, but more of a local network. Obviously such a distinction could work to the MSO's benefit when it comes to the cost of the network that carries Astros and Rockets' games. “The regional sports networks we offer on our expanded basic tier across a multi-state geography, such as **Fox Sports Southwest**, have rights to the games of professional and college teams from multiple cities within their distribution area,” Suddenlink chief programming officer *Patty McCaskill* wrote in a letter to CSN's gm. “CSN Houston does not; it focuses on professional teams from one city.” Suddenlink has offered to carry CSN Houston on a sports package, but the net wants to be in expanded basic just like Fox Sports Southwest. In a letter posted on IWantCSNHouston.com, network gm *Matt Hutchings* argued that CSN Houston and Suddenlink effectively agree on the license fee. “However, we remain apart on one issue: carriage,” he wrote.

Boston: Like most people, we don't know what to say. We were glued Fri to coverage from cable nets, broadcasters, newspapers and social media as the manhunt continued for the bombing suspect. It took a while for the cable nets to start live coverage from Watertown on the air in the overnight, but once they did, many reporters pulled marathon sessions. **CNN** used feeds from broadcast affiliates around 1am ET Fri before *Jake Tapper* went on air. *The NY Times* reported that Tapper, who was on air for about 7 hours, saw “a Twitter message about the pandemonium at 1:10 a.m. and e-mailed the channel HQ in Atlanta, volunteering to help.” *Anderson Cooper* left TX during the overnight, where he was covering the fertilizer plant explosion. He was back in Boston by Fri afternoon. There will be plenty of time to dissect who did what and what role (good and bad) social media played. For now, we just pray for the safety of the Boston area and the brave men and women on the front line. -- **MLB Net** said it would televise the Nats-Mets home games at 7pm ET due to the postponement of the Red Sox-Royals game at Fenway.

In the Courts: Viacom once again struck out in the courts, with a federal judge in Manhattan rejecting Viacom's damages claims over **Google's** alleged unauthorized posting of clips from its programming uploaded by users on **YouTube**. The judge said YouTube was protected by the “safe harbor” provisions in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Viacom says it will appeal. “This ruling ignores the opinions of the higher courts and completely disregards the rights of creative artists. We continue to believe that a jury should weigh the facts of this case and the overwhelming evidence that YouTube willfully infringed on our rights, and we intend to appeal the decision,” the programmer said.

Programming: FX acquired *George Lopez* sitcom “Saint George,” closing a 10/90 deal with **Lionsgate TV** and **Debmart Mercury**. As is standard with the 10/90 model, the show starts with 10 eps and then gets an additional 90-ep order if it meets set ratings thresholds. -- **Showtime** went to **Facebook** to make the official announcement of what's long been suspected: Season 8 will be the end of “Dexter.” The final season debuts June 30 at 9pm. -- The newly minted **National Women's Soccer League** and **Fox Sports Media Group** announced a 1-year deal to televise 9 games during the league's inaugural season. Fox Sports will 6 regular-season matches (beginning July 8) and all 3 playoff games. -- **Disney Channel** is refashioning game show “Win, Lose or Draw” with cutting edge tech and the interjection of physical challenges. It will debut later this year with *Justin Willman* of “Cupcake Wars” set to host.

People: Weather Company has turned to **Yahoo!** for a CFO, hiring *Peter Kuipers*, vp, finance for the Americas.

Public Affairs: The **Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute's** Alzheimer Outreach and Registry Program teamed with cable to give patients free notebooks to track important medical info. With the support of **Suddenlink**, **Comcast**, **Time Warner Cable** and **NCTA**, the program released Connect to Care notebooks available to patients through family physicians. The notebook supplies a list of helpful resources and several sections: Physician & Pharmacy Information, Medical History, Medications & Supplement Lists, Appointments & Notes, Travel Records, Billing & Insurance, Medical Test Results and Advanced Care Planning. -- The **FCC** has announced a Senior Digital Literacy Day for next Wed that will focus on how broadband can benefit older Americans.

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	55.18	(1.55%)	10.01%
DISH:	DISH	39.00	3.64%	7.14%
DISNEY:	DIS	61.56	1.67%	23.64%
GE:	GE	21.75	(7.29%)	3.62%
NEWS CORP:	NWS	31.27	(1.28%)	19.19%
MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	14.27	(3.84%)	(4.48%)
CHARTER:	CHTR	103.04	(1.92%)	35.15%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	40.56	(3.43%)	8.57%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	38.82	(2.93%)	8.07%
GCI:	GNCMA	8.97	(5.28%)	(6.47%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	73.44	(2.78%)	16.65%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	20.06	(5.82%)	1.93%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	22.52	(5.66%)	(2%)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	91.28	(2.55%)	(6.08%)
VIRGIN MEDIA:	VMED	49.14	(2.05%)	33.71%
WASH POST:	WPO	435.36	(2.06%)	19.21%

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	64.07	(2.66%)	29.43%
CBS:	CBS	46.06	(1.1%)	21.05%
CROWN:	CRWN	2.00	(0.5%)	8.11%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	77.85	(3.92%)	22.64%
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV	25.33	(7.72%)	(4.7%)
HSN:	HSNI	52.12	(2.43%)	(5.37%)
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	43.87	(0.97%)	(7.13%)
LIONSGATE:	LGf	23.57	1.38%	43.72%
OUTDOOR:	OUTD	8.74	(1.24%)	15.00%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	67.04	(1.56%)	15.75%
STARZ:	STRZA	21.96	(0.41%)	0.00%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	59.75	0.49%	24.92%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	4.18	2.70%	132.22%
VIACOM:	VIA	66.59	(0.51%)	22.70%
WWE:	WWE	8.67	(0.34%)	9.89%

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.31	(0.43%)	16.08%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	1.34	(7.59%)	(3.6%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	34.38	(2.27%)	1.15%
AMPHENOL:	APH	72.78	(0.97%)	12.49%
AOL:	AOL	37.72	(3.75%)	27.39%
APPLE:	AAPL	390.53	(9.14%)	(26.62%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	16.39	(5.64%)	9.71%
AVID TECH:	AVID	6.28	0.48%	(17.15%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	0.98	(30.99%)	(14.78%)
BROADCOM:	BRCM	31.89	(3.6%)	(3.97%)
CISCO:	CSCO	20.46	(5.01%)	4.12%
CLEARWIRE:	CLWR	3.25	(2.11%)	12.46%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	6.66	5.21%	16.03%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	15.88	(5.48%)	(3.23%)
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	20.39	(3.78%)	12.16%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	37.34	(3.39%)	9.12%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	799.87	1.24%	13.08%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.51	(6.45%)	8.68%
INTEL:	INTC	22.44	7.16%	8.83%
JDSU:	JDSU	12.70	(9.16%)	(5.93%)

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
LEVEL 3:	LVLt	20.15	(6.58%)	(12.81%)
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	29.77	3.39%	11.44%
RENTRAK:	RENT	23.27	2.83%	19.39%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	10.88	(3.55%)	12.51%
SONY:	SNE	16.65	(0.12%)	48.66%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	7.17	15.27%	26.46%
TIVO:	TIVO	10.96	(7.43%)	(10.97%)
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	21.35	(3.04%)	10.34%
VONAGE:	VG	2.94	(1.01%)	24.05%
YAHOO:	YHOO	23.47	(4.94%)	17.94%

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	38.28	(0.8%)	13.56%
VERIZON:	VZ	52.25	2.73%	20.75%

Company	Ticker	4/19 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	14547.51	(2.14%)	11.01%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	3206.06	(2.7%)	6.18%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1555.25	(2.11%)	9.05%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. SPRINT NEXTEL:	7.17	15.27%
2. INTEL:	22.44	7.16%
3. CONCURRENT:	6.66	5.21%
4. DISH:	39.00	3.64%
5. MICROSOFT:	29.77	3.39%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. BLNDER TONGUE:	0.98	(30.99%)
2. JDSU:	12.70	(9.16%)
3. APPLE:	390.53	(9.14%)
4. GRUPO TELEVISA:	25.33	(7.72%)
5. ALCATEL LUCENT:	1.34	(7.59%)

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