

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Talking Guides: Mid-Size Ops Need Extra Time, Says Cable One

With the **FCC** reportedly considering giving small cable ops 2 extra years to comply with a “talking guide” mandate under the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, **Cable One** is expressing concern that it would be left in the cold. The Commission is expected to take action on the talking guide provision in the coming weeks. If the order is adopted as has been discussed, operators with 400K+ subs and cable systems serving 20K+ video customers would have 3 years to make audibly accessible on-screen text menus and guides provided by navigation devices available to blind or visually impaired customers. Cable One doesn't qualify as “small” under the FCC guidelines, with 600K subs and 8 systems that serve more than 20K video customers. “I'm sure we're the first to publicly say we have an issue with this, and we expect others will feel the same way. We would expect that other MSO's greater than 400K subs but less than say 2-3mln would be in the same situation,” Cable One svp, CTO **Steve Fox** told us. Fox filed a letter and declaration with the FCC earlier in the week to support expanding the class of operators that receive the extra time, saying a talking guide will likely require a hardware and software combo to work. Based on Cable One's experience, even if the principal set-top makers are able to supply compliant talking guide boxes to their major customers (2mln+ subs) within the 3-year deadline, the devices may not be available in necessary quantities to small ops like Cable One for a considerable period of time. Meanwhile, **NCTA** has asked the FCC to exclude MVPD-provided apps downloaded on to tablets and other 3rd-party devices from the talking guide provision, saying it would be a stretch to apply the statute beyond menus and programming guides provided on navigation devices. In other words, NCTA is saying an MVPD-created app to control a customer's cable box via iPhone shouldn't be required to be a “talking guide.” The trade group said there were numerous practical problems with the idea, with a self-voicing feature possibly making an app too large to be supported on certain devices.

More NBCU Change: The writing first appeared on the wall in Feb when *Bonnie Hammer* and *Lauren Zalaznick* stopped splitting the company's cable nets. Zalaznick was upped to evp, **NBCU** to focus on digital and emerging tech, while Hammer took on the entire cable entertainment portfolio. The pen marks on the wall appeared bolder a couple weeks ago when NBCU announced **Univision Nets** pres *Cesar Conde* was joining as evp, reporting to *Steve Burke*. Now, the wall

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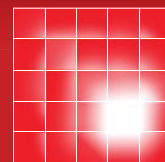
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scribbling has morphed into a neon flashing sign, with Burke announcing Zalaznick will be leaving the company after 12 years in a variety of leadership posts. "Her contributions to our company have been significant and far-reaching, from cable entertainment to Spanish-language broadcast, from digital initiatives to new marketing campaigns. Lauren also has been an important champion for many of our company-wide initiatives," Burke wrote. Most of Zalaznick's group (including *Lori Conkling*, *Tony Cardinale*, *Nick Lehman* and *Lenore Moritz*) will report to Conde. *Russell Hampton* (Consumer Products) and *Paul Yanover* (**Fandango**) will report to Universal Studios chief *Jeff Shell*. *John Shea* and the Integrated Media group will report to ad sales pres *Linda Yaccarino*. Zalaznick will help with the transition and consult, but she's expected to have a new gig soon. She already advises a couple digital start-ups and has investments in others.

At the Portals: The FCC's cybersecurity forum on Oct 1, which will examine measures to protect kids from online risks, features **Comcast** dir of security and privacy *Jim Janco*. Other speakers on the panel, which will look into technologies affecting online safety, include execs from **Microsoft**, **Facebook/Instagram**, **Google**, **ViaSat** and **Snapchat**.

Power Survey: Another year, another **JD Power** residential Internet service satisfaction survey. Telcos outranked cable ops again in nearly all regions in this year's survey: **Verizon** ranked highest in the east, south and west region while **AT&T** was a close 2nd in the west, north central, and south region. **Cablevision's** Optimum Online placed 2nd in the east region, beating other cable ops like **Cox** (#4), **Comcast** (#5), and **Time Warner Cable** (#6). **Bright House** (#3) ranked the highest among its cable peers in the south region, followed by **Suddenlink**, **Cox**, **Comcast**, **Charter** and **Time Warner Cable**. **WOW!** dominated the north central region. Overall, customers with premium speed tiers are happier: Satisfaction increases to 712 among subs with such tiers, 41 points higher than among those who haven't upgraded their services. The average monthly cost for the premium tier is \$48 vs \$43 for basic service. The most critical factor in determining overall satisfaction is performance and reliability.

Online: Remember **Netflix's** Open Connect Content Delivery Network, which seeks to improve OTT video delivery and lower the costs through a free, direct connection between an ISP and Netflix? The initiative laid the foundation for Netflix to offer "Super HD," which applies less compression to the 1080p image. The streaming service said Fri that it's offering HD streams to its subs regardless of their ISPs, though subs of an ISP with a direct Netflix connection will get the best experience. The company uses "adaptive streaming" to dynamically adjust the video quality based on the available bandwidth, meaning the ability to receive Super HD depends on broadband quality and performance. Ops already connected to Open Connect include **Cablevision**, **Google Fiber**, **Clearwire**, and **Frontier**. Netflix initially rolled out Super HD in Jan through its Open Connect ISP partners. Ops that weren't fans of Open Connect when it was announced include **Time Warner Cable**, which said the service closes off access to some content while seeking preferential treatment from ISPs. Nonetheless, Netflix continues to encourage ISPs to adopt the initiative to offer "the best possible Netflix experience by storing the TV shows and movies Netflix members want to watch as close to them as possible," the streaming service said in a blog.

Rumor Mill: Intel's streaming entertainment service Intel Media is reportedly looking to tweak its launch plan because of trouble signing up programmers. An Intel spokesman declined to comment, but just a little over 2 months ago, Intel was saying it "feels good about the progress we have made to date" on content deals (*Cfax*, 6/25). The company now reportedly wants backers like **Amazon** and **Samsung**. Intel initially plans to launch Intel Media by the end of the year.

Ratings: **NFL Network** scored a 4.9 US HH rating and 7.6m viewers for its coverage of San Francisco 49ers v St Louis Rams Thurs night, according to **Nielsen** Fast Nationals. Overall, the game is the 8th highest-rated and the 9th most-watched Thursday Night Football game ever. TNF is averaging a 5.4 US HH rating and 8.6m viewers through 3 games.

O-ducation: Based on **OWN's** interactive series "Oprah's Lifeclass," the network launched its 1st online e-Course, "Oprah's Lifeclass Presents Brené Brown: The Gifts of Imperfection," starting Oct 20. The 6-week online class features TED speaker Brown and is designed to explore "the guideposts for wholehearted living..."

On the Circuit: **A&E Network** is developing a new original scripted series "The Returned." Based on French suspense series. -- **Turner Classic Movies** set April 10-13 as the dates for the '14 TCM Classic Film Festival.

CableFAX Program Awards: Just a quick shout-out to those who gathered Sept 25 in NYC at the **CableFAX** Program Awards and Top Ops event. And thanks to **Blackbelt TV's** *Shanna McLaughlin* (a.k.a. "Smashin' Shanna") for helping out with awards presentations. For more on the honorees, go to <http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/events/Program2013winners/>

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	9/27 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
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BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS

21ST CENTURY FOX:	FOXA	33.26	0.76%	0.00%
DIRECTV:	DTV	59.96	(5.44%)	19.54%
DISH:	DISH	44.46	(5.94%)	22.14%
DISNEY:	DIS	65.19	0.28%	30.93%
GE:	GE	24.05	0.17%	14.58%

MSOS

CABLEVISION:	CVC	16.83	(4.48%)	12.65%
CHARTER:	CHTR	133.57	(0.2%)	75.20%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	44.74	0.77%	19.75%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	43.03	(0.32%)	19.79%
GCI:	GNCMA	9.56	3.46%	(0.31%)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	79.85	1.98%	26.83%
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	23.75	(3.18%)	20.68%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	23.28	(0.21%)	1.31%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	112.17	(1.25%)	15.41%
WASH POST:	WPO	610.99	5.28%	67.30%

PROGRAMMING

AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	66.88	(0.93%)	35.11%
CBS:	CBS	55.50	(1.03%)	45.86%
CROWN:	CRWN	3.15	1.61%	70.27%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	84.84	3.72%	33.65%
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	27.98	(2.41%)	5.27%
HSN:	HSNI	54.44	(0.42%)	(1.16%)
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	54.52	2.10%	15.41%
LIONSGATE:	LGF	35.84	5.94%	118.54%
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:	MSG	58.56	3.52%	32.04%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	78.11	0.46%	34.86%
STARZ:	STRZA	28.02	3.97%	0.00%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	66.20	2.95%	38.41%
VALUEVISION:	VTV	4.50	(0.66%)	150.00%
VIACOM:	VIA	84.65	1.26%	55.98%
WWE:	WWE	10.07	3.81%	27.63%

TECHNOLOGY

ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.46	(0.81%)	23.62%
ALCATEL LUCENT:	ALU	3.65	5.80%	162.59%
AMDOCS:	DOX	37.07	0.11%	9.06%
AMPHENOL:	APH	77.54	1.02%	19.85%
AOL:	AOL	34.39	1.36%	16.14%
APPLE:	AAPL	482.75	3.28%	(9.29%)
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	17.01	2.84%	13.86%
AVID TECH:	AVID	5.84	4.10%	(22.96%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	0.90	(4.26%)	(21.74%)
BROADCOM:	BRCM	25.84	(5.49%)	(22.19%)
CISCO:	CSCO	23.33	(4.81%)	18.73%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.08	(9.58%)	23.34%
CONVERGYS:	CVG	18.87	(0.11%)	14.99%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	24.92	2.26%	37.07%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	43.40	(0.6%)	26.83%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	876.39	(2.96%)	23.89%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	7.78	3.60%	53.45%
INTEL:	INTC	22.98	(3.32%)	11.45%
JDSU:	JDSU	14.66	(2.14%)	8.59%
LEVEL 3:	LVT	26.32	(0.94%)	13.89%

Company	Ticker	9/27 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
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MICROSOFT:	MSFT	33.27	1.46%	24.56%
NIELSEN:	NLSN	36.32	1.25%	18.73%
RENTRAK:	RENT	32.45	1.06%	66.50%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	11.59	(0.26%)	19.86%
SONY:	SNE	21.29	(0.33%)	90.09%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	6.16	(1.6%)	8.64%
TIVO:	TIVO	12.45	2.22%	1.14%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	36.41	10.37%	88.17%
VONAGE:	VG	3.15	1.29%	32.91%
YAHOO:	YHOO	33.55	8.47%	68.59%

TELCOS

AT&T:	T	33.98	(0.96%)	0.80%
VERIZON:	VZ	47.00	(1.63%)	8.62%

MARKET INDICES

DOW:	DJI	15258.24	(1.25%)	16.44%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	3781.59	0.18%	25.24%
S&P 500:	GSPC	1691.75	(1.06%)	18.62%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. UNIVERSAL ELEC:	36.41	10.37%
2. YAHOO:	33.55	8.47%
3. LIONSGATE:	35.84	5.94%
4. ALCATEL LUCENT:	3.65	5.80%
5. WASH POST:	610.99	5.28%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. CONCURRENT:	7.08	(9.58%)
2. DISH:	44.46	(5.94%)
3. BROADCOM:	25.84	(5.49%)
4. DIRECTV:	59.96	(5.44%)
5. CISCO:	23.33	(4.81%)

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