

CableFAX Daily™

Wednesday — October 30, 2013

What the Industry Reads First

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Talking Guides: FCC Gives Smaller Ops Some Flexibility

In what may be one of the last orders approved with *Mignon Clyburn* as interim **FCC** chair (see “Full FCC Ahead” below), the Commission adopted rules Tues aimed at making it easier for consumers who are hearing impaired or visually impaired to access programming on a wide range of devices. The order includes cable and satellite set-top boxes, **TiVo**s and other devices for video play back (TVs, computers, tablets, smartphones, etc). It’s the final milestone in the FCC’s implementation of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act on ’10. The order was not immediately released, but it is said to give smaller operators some flexibility with meeting the so-called “talking guide” mandate in 3 years. MVPD operators with fewer than 400K subs will have an additional 2 years to comply (5 years total). Small systems with under 20K subs that are not owned by **Comcast**, **DirecTV**, **DISH** or **Time Warner Cable** also will have an additional 2 years to meet the deadline for audibly accessible on-screen text menus and to make navigation guides on devices available to blind or visually impaired customers. **Cable One** had urged the FCC to build in more flexibility, given that the op would be considered too big for the exemptions. The MSO said that in its experience, even if the principal set-top makers can 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. The FCC order also includes “outreach requirements to inform the public about the availability of accessibility options, and a procedure for complaints.” The Commission also issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on areas where it said the current record is insufficient. **NCTA** had lobbied the FCC to exclude MVPD-provided apps downloaded 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. It’s unclear where that stands. “I’m proud that, as a result of today’s action, 25 million Americans who are blind or visually impaired will be able to navigate menus on a range of devices that show video programming, and an additional 36 million deaf and hard of hearing Americans will be able to activate closed captions easily,” Clyburn said in a statement Tues. “Once these rules take effect, people who are blind or visually impaired will be able to quickly find a news channel during an emergency or tune in to their favorite show as readily as sighted people.”

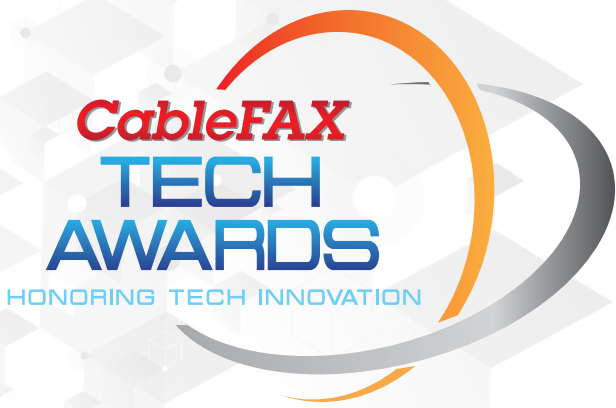
Full FCC Ahead: The **FCC**’s days as a 3-member Commission are over. Hours after Sen *Ted Cruz* (R-TX) lifted his hold on *Tom Wheeler*’s nomination, the Senate confirmed him as FCC chmn and Republican *Michael O’Rielly* as a commissioner. Cruz had placed the hold on Wheeler because he felt he hadn’t adequately explained his position on political ad disclosure, specifically the DISCLOSE Act. “In our meeting this afternoon, Mr. Wheeler stated that he had heard the unambiguous message that trying to impose the requirements of the DISCLOSE Act, absent congressional action, would imperil the Commission’s vital statutory responsibilities, and he explicitly stated that doing so was ‘not a priority,’” Cruz said.

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Questions: Contact Mary-Lou French at mfrench@accessintel.com or (301) 354-1851.

For more information on how to submit your entries visit: www.CableFAXTech.com

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In Our Thoughts: Sending positive, healing wishes to *Glenn Britt*, who informed **Time Warner Cable** staffers Tues that he was recently diagnosed with cancer. He underwent testing following ongoing issues with his voice that began mid-summer. Britt is a cancer survivor, having had a bout with melanoma 5 years ago. "I feel good and am optimistic about my prognosis. I have no intention of letting this cancer slow me down, and will continue to work until my retirement at the end of the year," Britt wrote in an internal note. "I am thankful that the transition to Rob [Marcus] was planned early, and was well underway before I got sick. The transition has been seamless so far and is nearly complete." In July, Britt announced his plans to retire as CEO at year-end, with pres/COO *Rob Marcus* stepping into the role Jan 1. "Glenn is more than our leader, he's our friend, and I know I speak for everyone at TWC when I say he has our complete support," Marcus said. "I'm confident that he'll bring the same determination, strength and focus to his treatment as he has to leading our company."

TVE: Comcast renamed its Xfinity TV Player App "Xfinity TV Go." A major update is planned for next week letting customers watch up to 35 channels over the Internet on their **Apple** and **Android**-powered mobile devices. Channels will vary by subscription, but participating nets include **BBC World News, beIN Sport, beIN Sport Español, Big Ten Network, CNBC, CNN, Disney Channel, Disney Junior, Disney XD, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN3, ESPN Deportes, ESPNews, ESPN, Fox Business Channel, Fox News Channel, Fox Sports 1, FX, FXX, Golf Channel, HLN, MSNBC, National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo Wild, NBC Sports Network** and all seven **Pac-12 Networks**, with more to come.

On the Circuit: **WICT's** DC and Baltimore Chapter held its annual PowerBrokers Breakfast Tues, recognizing the **WICT Touchstones of Leadership Award** Winners. **NBCU** svp, govt affairs *Meredith Attwell Baker* gave the keynote, offering up 7 life lessons learned through TV and movies. **NBCU** talent was well represented on the list, including "30 Rock's" *Liz Lemon*, who Baker said kept an open mind when it came to mentors (see Jack). She also gave credit to *Julia Louis-Dreyfus'* character on **HBO's** "Veep" for illustrating the importance of being yourself and "Sex and the City's" *Carrie Bradshaw* for reminding us of the importance of friends and distractions.

Broadband: Comcast used a hearing before the Senate Communications subcmte Tues to announce it has connected more than 1mln low-income Americans (250K+ families) to broadband via its Internet Essentials program. "We are committed to working to expand and improve the program and to engaging with our nonprofit and government partners to help bridge this so-called digital divide," evp *David Cohen* said in his testimony.

TVE: Longhorn Network will offer free TVE services for US-based military personnel connected to on-base military broadband and WiFi networks nationwide, through the net's TVE app at **Apple's** App Store. In addition, during the week of Nov 11, the net will air special programming to highlight military stories as part of its Veterans Week initiative.

Measurement: With its airing of "El Clásico," the match pitting bitter rivals Barcelona and Real Madrid, **beIN Sport** took the top spot in **Nielsen's** Twitter TV measurement platform SocialGuide's rankings based on total tweets for Oct 26. The net's 816,810 Tweets nearly doubled the #2 program, the World Series on **Fox**.

Advertising: Fusion, the **ABC/Univision** joint venture that went live Mon, scored a slew of launch partners, including **AT&T, Darden, Disney Parks, Allstate, Samsung, Toyota** and **Kay Jewelers**.

Aereo: Following its expansion earlier this year to Boston, Atlanta, Miami, Salt Lake City, Houston, Dallas and



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Saun Sayamongkhun at saun@accessintel.com.

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Join us for CableFAX's Most Powerful Women in Cable Breakfast on November 21, 2013 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in NYC, as we salute the women who have made their mark on the industry with leadership, innovation and community.



November 21, 2013 | Grand Hyatt, NYC • Register today at www.CableFAX.com/events




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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Detroit metropolitan areas, **Aereo** will launch in the Denver metro area on Mon. Residents of the 67-county area who pre-register will receive priority access to sign up. Similar to other markets, new subs will get their 1st month of access for free.

Programming: AMC renewed "The Walking Dead" in a no-brainer (pun intended) given Season 4's record-setting ratings. *Scott Gimple* will return as showrunner for Season 5.

Public Affairs: Disney and ESPN pledged \$750K to the CT Children's Medical Center Foundation.

People: NBCU's *Sylvia Aguilera-Hart* joined **NUVotv** as vp/creative dir of on-air promotions.

Business & Finance: Private social network for the neighborhood **Next-door** scored \$60m in funding from new investors and existing investors including **Comcast Ventures**.

Editor's Note: Fri is the deadline for the **CableFAX** Tech awards. Don't miss your chance to gain recognition for the best cable hardware, software, multiplatform innovations and even best technology-focused marketing and PR campaigns. More info at: <http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/events/cablefax-techawards/> -- Seats and tables are filling fast for our Nov 21 Most Powerful Women in Cable breakfast in NYC. Make sure to secure your spot before we sell out. More info at: http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/events/most_powerful_women2013/

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	10/29 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	10/29 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	34.82	(0.01)	ECHOSTAR:	47.91	0.16
DIRECTV:	62.74	(0.35)	GOOGLE:	1036.24	21.24
DISH:	48.43	(0.23)	HARMONIC:	7.55	(0.12)
DISNEY:	68.92	(0.08)	INTEL:	24.52	0.16
GE:	26.21	0.12	JDSU:	15.18	(0.01)
MSOS					
CABLEVISION:	15.91	(0.06)	LEVEL 3:	27.02	0.39
CHARTER:	137.23	0.69	MICROSOFT:	35.52	(0.05)
COMCAST:	47.71	(0.52)	NIELSEN:	39.50	0.56
COMCAST SPCL:	46.43	(0.48)	RENTRAK:	37.14	0.17
GCI:	10.06	0.07	SEACHANGE:	14.63	(0.06)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	79.71	(1.41)	SONY:	19.48	(0.03)
LIBERTY INT:	26.95	0.11	SPRINT NEXTEL:	6.68	0.07
SHAW COMM:	24.15	0.45	TIVO:	13.58	(0.22)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	118.14	(0.58)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	39.79	0.59
WASH POST:	671.00	19.44	VONAGE:	3.69	0.06
PROGRAMMING					
AMC NETWORKS:	69.67	(0.23)	YAHOO:	33.17	0.82
CBS:	59.42	0.17	TELCOS		
CROWN:	3.33	0.04	AT&T:	36.27	0.70
DISCOVERY:	85.40	UNCH	VERIZON:	51.09	0.52
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	30.51	0.24	MARKET INDICES		
HSN:	53.67	0.19	DOW:	15680.35	111.42
INTERACTIVE CORP:	57.90	0.88	NASDAQ:	3952.34	12.21
LIONSGATE:	34.26	(0.5)	S&P 500:	1771.95	9.84
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:	61.24	0.51			
SCRIPPS INT:	80.78	0.15			
STARZ:	30.42	0.36			
TIME WARNER:	70.07	(0.09)			
VALUEVISION:	5.42	0.22			
VIACOM:	84.93	0.30			
WWE:	12.05	0.20			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	2.62	(0.01)			
ALCATEL LUCENT:	3.29	0.07			
AMDOCS:	38.47	0.07			
AMPHENOL:	80.94	0.21			
AOL:	37.35	0.74			
APPLE:	516.68	(13.2)			
ARRIS GROUP:	16.59	0.06			
AVID TECH:	6.77	0.04			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.90	(0.03)			
BROADCOM:	27.66	0.62			
CISCO:	22.82	0.28			
CONCURRENT:	7.38	UNCH			
CONVERGYS:	20.19	0.01			
CSG SYSTEMS:	27.14	0.35			

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