5 Pages Today

CableFAX Daily

Friday — August 22, 2014

What the Industry Reads First

Volume $2\overline{4}$ No. 163

Cable on Campus: MSOs Roll out Streaming Services

In light of growing consumption of online video among college students, cable is eyeing the campus market with new IPTV and/or cross-platform video services, which in Comcast's case are free with room and board with no set-top required (one piece of on-premise equipment is needed). After months of trialing the service, the MSO officially launched its Xfinity On Campus Thurs, aiming to allow students to watch live TV and on demand content on their IP-enabled devices while on campus. The service will be available this fall at Bridgewater College, Drexel University, Emerson College, Lasell College and the University of Delaware. Several schools including MIT and the University of New Hampshire will also trial the program. The package features some 80 live cable channels including major broadcast nets, as well as VOD content. Students can purchase premium channels, including HBO, Showtime and Starz, as well as the Sports Entertainment Package, which includes nets like ESPN Goal Line. Comcast is adding its new cloud-based DVR feature to the mix as it expands into more markets. Off-campus access is part of the offering, allowing students to use their school credentials to authenticate and receive online programming as part of their subscription. Over the past few years, Northwestern U and other schools have turned off their on-campus TV service as more students turn to OTT services like Netflix and Hulu. Some schools even reportedly inked agreements with Netflix to put the company's Open Connect caches within their campus networks to enable a better streaming experience. To prove that cable is still cool for school, other MSOs like Cox have rolled out campus-wide IPTV services. Cox currently offers Campus Connects, which lets students stream video across devices without compromising the school's bandwidth. Among clients is Tulane University, which trialed Campus Connect last year and is now a full-time customer. The MSO is currently offering a 30-day free trial, which provides a limited lineup of news and information channels. While Verizon FiOS doesn't have a formal campus offer, it provides a college-friendly package featuring stand-alone and month-to-month options, a spokesman said. Cable isn't the only one looking at the campus market. Boston-based startup Philo (formerly Tivli) uses adaptive bitrate technology to stream video across campus network and has expanded



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to a dozen schools, allowing students to access live, streaming TV as well as DVR services.

Bloomberg Wants Out of the Neighborhood: Remember how the FCC found Comcast had violated one of the conditions in its NBCU transaction by not moving Bloomberg TV to news neighborhoods? Well, now Bloomberg wants out of some Comcast news neighborhoods. It has asked the FCC to waive the neighborhooding order so that Comcast can place Bloomberg TV in a channel position near CNBC—but outside of an existing news neighborhood—in a small number of Comcast lineups. The request comes as part of a settlement agreement between Comcast and Bloomberg on the whole neighborhooding issue. Comcast supports the waiver. Bloomberg said that in many cases, the agreement results in BTV moving to a news neighborhood that contains CNBC, consistent with the Commission's order.

<u>FiOS SEC Talks</u>: It sounds like an **SEC Network** deal with **Verizon FiOS** could be announced any moment now. Both sides indicated productive conversations are underway, and *Sports Business Daily* quoted sources saying a deal would include expanded basic carriage within the SEC territory (it's unclear what happens outside the SEC footprint). We're told nothing official had been signed Thurs, but things were looking good. Assuming the deal is a go, it will leave **Cablevision** as the only top 10 MVPD without a contract for the net. Next Thurs is the big day to watch, when SEC Net shows its 1st football games (6 pm ET, Texas A&M at South Carolina; and 9:15pm, Temple at Vanderbilt).

<u>Sign of August Doldrums?</u> Rep *Anna Eshoo* (D-CA) launched a contest on **Reddit** Thurs to rebrand net neutrality. The most popular entry on Reddit will be declared the winner—but just what that means is unclear. Do they get to smack someone's hand for using the ubiquitous "net neutrality?" Current contenders include Toll-Free Internet, Internet Equality and Worldwide Digital Freedom. "Internet users know what they want and expect from the Internet, but these days all the jargon about net neutrality rules is making it difficult to know what box to check that advances their best interest," Eshoo wrote on Reddit. "That's why I'm hosting a contest on Reddit to rebrand net neutrality and bring some clarity to an otherwise muddy legal debate before the FCC finalizes its proposed open Internet rules. If Internet users care about their right to uninhibited access to the Internet, this is their opportunity to have an impact on the process, to help put the advantage back in the hands of Internet users, and to ensure that the free and open Internet prevails."

<u>Big Little League Ratings</u>: Las Vegas' defeat of Philly Wed to advance to the Little League World Series US Championship game scored a 3.4 overnight rating, making it the highest-rated Little League World Series game ever on **ESPN**. It was up 143% from last year's corresponding game. The series concludes over the weekend on **ABC** with the International Championship game (Sat, 12:30pm), the US Championship game (Sat, 3:30pm) and the World Series Championship (Sun, 3pm).

Programming: TNT scored the TV rights to "The Hunger Games" and "Divergent" movie franchises. Under the deal, TNT will become the 1st basic cable net with access to all 4 Divergent films at the same time. "The Hunger Games" will air for the 1st time in winter 2015, with the franchise's 2nd film debuting on TNT in winter 2016. ABC Family gets the films first. "Mockingjay - Part 1" will hit TNT in 2017, and it will be able to air all 4 Hunger Games films concurrently in 2018. -- Nets have begun announcing plans for 9/11 programming. History will premiere Marcus Robinson's doc "Rebuilding the World Trade Center" at 6pm on the anniversary of the attacks. Discovery will tell the story of NYPD's elite Emergency Service Unit with "9/11 E-Men Heroes" at 8pm. -- HBO will debut 4 docs in its "State of Play" franchise beginning Nov 11 with a look at how the NFL is making the game safer. -- WEtv greenlit extreme relationship therapy series, "Sex Box." Adapted from a UK series of the same name, it lets couples discuss their issues with experts and then retire to a camera-free/soundproof box on the show's set to have sex. They emerge and immediately discuss their experiences with the panel of experts.

<u>Cable One's Paperless Billing Push</u>: Cable One says it will plant a tree on behalf of every customer who adopts paperless billing from Aug 5 through Arbor Day (Apr 25). It's working with the **Arbor Day Foundation** on the initiative. Trees will be planted in Cable One markets and in national forests.





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National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications



BUSINESS & FINANCE

NAMIC EMMAs: NAMIC announced the winners of its Excellence in Multicultural Marketing Awards (EMMA), who will be recognized at the annual conference Sept 16-17 in NY. A record number of 110 entries were submitted with NAMIC renaming the Cable Distributors category as Media Content Distributors, allowing for entries from a wider cross-section (Verizon FiOS picked up a couple wins). Comcast received 7 first place awards, leading all contestants in the content distributors category. **HBO** led the Networks/ Industry Suppliers division with 4 first place wins. See the complete list of winners at NAMIC.com. The winners also will be featured in the Sept edition of Cablefax: The Magazine.

Business Services: Comcast Business' full portfolio of Ethernet services, with speeds of up to 10 Gbps, are available now across 10 NY towns in Putnam. Dutchess and Westchester counties.

Editor's Note: There's still time to ioin us for the TV Innovation Summit on Sept 18 in NYC where execs from companies like Comcast, DirecTV, A+E Networks, NBCU, Scripps **Networks Interactive, Discovery** Comm, Cablevision, Mediacom and more will explore every angle of the multiplatform revolution. For more info, check out the agenda at www.cablefaxtvsummit.com/agenda

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SCRIPPS INT:	81.65	0.15		
STARZ:	30.20	0.55		
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Oct. 14 in Philadelphia - Register at www.CTHRA.com

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

A New Kind of Creepiness...

"The X-Files" producer/writer Glen Morgan hasn't lost his edge at all. With "Intruders" (Aug 23, 10pm) on BBC America, he offers an X-Files-esque sci-fi/paranormal twist and the kind of creepiness you probably haven't felt since Mulder and Scully roamed the airwaves. This adaptation of Michael Marshall Smith's novel of the same name uncovers a secret society whose quest for immortality has led them to inhabit the bodies of others. Morgan noted the emergence of vampire series and films in the past 10 years. "There's that immortality element," he told us. "The world is so out of whack that we want to start over? I don't know... But I am seeing this kind of interest in immortality or giving certain life another try," he said, noting A&E's pickup of "The Return," a 10-ep drama set in a French town where local people who have long been presumed dead suddenly reappear. Morgan argues that the exploration of eternity and the mix of detective and horror elements are what make Intruders unique, with the idea of having another soul inside of a person letting characters to develop complexity and range. The series attempts to bring together numerous characters with multiple storylines such as a missing wife or a child running away from home. One character, Madison O'Donnell (Millie Brown) amounts to a 9-year-old impression of a grown-up psychopath and will probably be the most talked about element of the show thanks to the uncomfortable level of maturity presented. Almost any scene with Millie is memorable, Morgan said. Like The X-Files, Intruders has plenty of suspense to warrant a continued engagement. The difference is it has a lot more creepy, disturbing elements that will chill you to the bones. "Every act you have to have a 'boo' scene that people will talk about the next day." said Morgan. - Joyce Wang

Reviews: "The Intruders," pilot, Sat, 10p ET, BBC America. Ready the replay button, although it might not help. This Washington State-based paranormal series from Glen Morgan of "The X-Files" is well done, with an excellent cast including John Simm, Mira Sorvino, James Frain and Madison O'Donnell as a creepy kid with a past. Yet its plot of strange occurrences can be tough to follow. Hang in, ep 2 makes things clearer... slightly. -- "You're The Worst," Thurs, 10:30p, FX. This fun new series is a hoot of a screwball rom-com. Tasteless Jimmy (Chris Geere) and whacky Gretchen (Aya Cash) star as 30-something singles who "hang out," but insist they're not a couple. Then why is Gretchen upset tonight when, as FX puts it, "Jimmy accidentally sleeps" with a sexy Hollywood celeb? -- "Ray Donovan," Sun, 9p, **Showtime**. We've slowly warmed to this series about Boston tough Ray (*Liev* Schreiber) 'fixing' problems for well-heeled LA folk as his own vulnerabilities mount. Ray largely ignores his wife and kids as dad (Emmy-nominee Jon Voight) causes headaches. Schreiber directs this pivotal ep, where Ray loses control. -- **Notable:** ESPN's fine coverage of The Little League World Series was matched by record offense. The consolation game is Sun (10a ET). -- Our favorite part of Monday's Emmys? Joan Rivers and "The Fashion Police" (Fri, 9p, E!). - Seth Arenstein

Basic Cable Rankings								
(8/11/14-8/17/14)								
	Mon-Sun Prime							
1	DSNY	0.9	2149					
1	DISC	0.9	2112					
3 3 5	TNT	8.0	2073					
3	USA	8.0	1934					
5	HIST	0.7	1735					
5	FOXN	0.7	1670					
7	TBSC	0.6	1538					
7	HGTV	0.6	1360					
7	ESPN	0.6	1352					
10	A&E	0.5	1211					
10	NAN	0.5	1125					
12	ADSM	0.4	1021					
12	SYFY	0.4	1012					
12	FOOD	0.4	1012					
12	FAM	0.4	993					
12	FX	0.4	982					
12	LIFE	0.4	880					
12	AMC	0.4	880					
12	NFLN	0.4	723					
20	SPK	0.3	813					
20	TLC	0.3	788					
20	CNN	0.3	752					
20	ID	0.3	731					
20	BRAV	0.3	717					
20	TVLD	0.3	690					
20	VH1	0.3	682					
20	APL	0.3	633					
20	MSNB	0.3	630					
20	HALL	0.3	628					
20	DSJR	0.3	598					
20	HMM DSE	0.3 0.3	397					
20 33	ESP2	0.3	83					
33	CMDY	0.2	605 578					
33	BET	0.2	569					
33	TRU	0.2	556					
33	MTV	0.2	548					
33	WETV	0.2	546 515					
33	EN	0.2	504					
33	DXD	0.2	491					
33	LMN	0.2	461					
33	NGC	0.2	449					
33	NKJR	0.2	409					
33	H2	0.2	399					
33	GSN	0.2	389					
33	TRAV	0.2	384					
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