

CableFAX Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Summer Ratings: TNT Dethrones USA in Prime, Disney Takes Total Day

After 8 consecutive summers as the #1 cable net in prime among total viewers, it looks like **USA** will finally fall from the top spot. It had to happen sometime. After a week that featured **Turner** headlines on buyouts, potential layoffs and the upcoming departure of **TNT, TBS, TCM** programming head *Michael Wright*, here's some good news for the programmer: **TNT** is poised to win primetime this summer, thanks to it having the 3 top cable series of the summer season. An **ABC/Disney** analysis of **Nielsen** data from May 26-Aug 24 put TNT in 1st place among cable nets, averaging 2.4mln viewers in prime compared to USA's 2.2mln. USA is set to finish 2nd, but it's down 25% in total viewers compared to last summer's nearly 3mln viewers. TNT is also down, but not as dramatically, slipping 9% YOY. **Disney Channel** is set to win its 2nd summer in a row in total viewers, with 1.56mln vs runner-up **Nick's** 1.53mln. Disney also took the top spot in kids 2-11, 6-11 and 9-14. For summer-to-date, TNT has 3 of the top basic cable original series: "Rizzoli & Isles" (7.6mln P2+), "Major Crimes" (7.1mln) and new drama "The Last Ship" (6.4mln), according to a Turner analysis of Nielsen data. **A&E's** "Duck Dynasty" (5.9mln) and the just-canceled "Longmire" (5.6mln) took 4th and 5th place, respectively. TNT has 3 more shows in the top 10: "Murder in the First" (4.5mln), "Falling Skies" (4.4mln) and "Perception" (4.2mln). Also in the top 10 are **VH1's** "Love & Hip Hop Atlanta" (4.4mln) and **History's** "Pawn Stars" (4.2mln). Based on preliminary summer totals, **ESPN's** World Cup coverage of USA-Portugal (13.8mln viewers, Live+7 blended with live+SD) was summer's most-watched cable program, followed by the net's coverage of Belgium-USA and Ghana-USA matches.

A&E's Slice of Vice: A+E Networks is wrapping up a deal in which it will pay \$250mln for 10% of **Vice Media**, sources confirmed. The story was 1st reported by the *Financial Times*. The deal, expected to close shortly, values Vice at \$2.5bln. It comes after talks between Vice and **Time Warner** ended. Vice, which operates online channels and produces a news magazine show for **HBO**, could be a great companion for **History**, though Vice CEO *Shane Smith* told FT that the company's "exploring channel possibilities" with A+E in addition to planning programming with existing nets.

Cablefax's

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In the Courts: AT&T has filed a lawsuit in DE federal court claiming Cox is infringing on 8 patents related to “systems and methods for improving the quality and reducing the cost of telecommunications network services.” In the suit, AT&T said it contacted Cox in 2009 about some of the patents and that despite “years of protracted negotiations,” the MSO has “sought to avoid payment for its infringement by repeatedly delaying and rescheduling negotiations.” Cox could not be reached immediately for comment. The patents relate to DVRs, set-tops, packet telephone and transmitting data over an RF cable among other things.

Political Filings: NCTA responded to a call by the Campaign Legal Center and others to require cable and satellite systems to post their political files to the FCC’s online database, warning that cable files are different than broadcast files. For starters, there are more than 5200 cable systems at NCTA’s last count. Currently, only broadcasters have to upload their political advertising files to the FCC’s online database. The Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause and Sunlight Foundation last month asked the FCC to extend the disclosure requirement, arguing that super PACs and other outside groups are increasingly advertising on cable and satellite. Cable and satellite do have to disclose this info (schedules of time purchase, rates charged, etc) at their offices for public inspection. NCTA told the FCC that cable public inspection files can be significantly more complex and voluminous than broadcaster files. “Any online posting requirements should be designed to minimize undue burdens on cable operators by focusing on providing relevant material online on a going-forward basis, and avoiding requirements to upload existing voluminous files of little if any interest to the general public,” NCTA said. Some operators have invested in electronic systems to manage their files, with at least one (Time Warner Cable) already making political files available to the public at a dedicated website. “Any new rules under consideration by the Commission should accommodate—not undermine—those efforts,” NCTA said, suggesting new rules not dictate formatting requirements and that the Commission explore a phase-in period.

Ratings: BBC America’s new 8-part paranormal thriller “Intruders” scored the net’s best Supernatural Sat series premiere ever in Live+3, drawing 1.22m total viewers and 623K in 25-54. The +77% growth among 25-54 in Live+SD delivery ranks ahead of series premieres of both “Atlantis (+38%) and “Orphan Black (+29%).

MPEG Transition: Comcast is transitioning its Augusta, GA, system from MPEG2 format to MPEG4 starting in Oct. That means cable channels in the region won’t be viewable on older TiVo equipment incompatible with the new format, the DVR service provider said in a notice to customers on its website. It’s the 1st market where Comcast has made the MPEG4 shift. TiVo devices to be affected by the transition include TiVo Stream, which won’t work with the upgraded Comcast channels until early next year, when a Stream software update will be released. In addition, the TiVo Series3/HD will only be able to receive local channels. Users will need to upgrade to a Premiere Series or Roamio Series DVR to continue to receive all channels. TiVo Series 1 and Series 2 users will need to replace their existing cable boxes with updated boxes from Comcast to continue to receive content. “TiVo is working hard to minimize the impact of this transition on our Augusta customers,” the company said in a statement, urging subs with a Series 3 or earlier TiVo device to contact customer support for special upgrade offers.

Marketing: FXX and “The Simpsons” were set to take over beaches across the country over Labor Day weekend with an inflatable installation of Blinky, the 3-eyed fish featured on the animated series. The net is currently airing a 12-day marathon of the series. Starting Sept 2, “The Simpsons” moves to its regular weekly schedule, with special themed marathons airing throughout the year. -- Time Warner Cable Southern CA launched the 2nd season of its “TWC Fan’s Choice” contest to let customers select which local Fri night high school football games will air on its Time Warner Cable Community net. Viewers can go to twccommunity.com to choose their favorite matchup for the 1st week of the contest. Eight fan choices, 4 from CA Interscholastic Federation LA City section and 4 from the San Diego section, will be added to the schedule, giving the net a total of 18 games this fall.

Research: There’s a reason that Samsung is ramping up its 4K efforts. According to a research from NPD DisplaySearch, vendors shipped more 4K sets in 2Q than they did in all of 2013. Some 2.1m sets were shipped during the period, compared to just 1.6m in all of last year. In addition, distribution of 4K sets is expanding. While 80% of the sets went to China last year, some 60% of those ended up in China in 2Q, with about 10% coming to North America.

Editor’s Note: Due to the holiday weekend, your next issue of Cablefax will arrive Tues evening.

CableFAX Week in Review

Company	Ticker	8/29 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DIRECTV:	DTV	86.45	2.25%	25.18%
DISH:	DISH	64.81	(0.02%)	11.90%
ENTRAVISION:	EVC	4.58	(1.29%)	(24.79%)
GRAY TELEVISION:	GTN	9.93	(4.52%)	(4.24%)
MEDIA GENERAL:	MEG	15.41	(11.03%)	(31.81%)
NEXSTAR:	NXST	45.64	(1.79%)	(18.11%)
SINCLAIR:	SBGI	29.05	(0.48%)	(18.69%)

MSOS				
CABLEVISION:	CVC	18.51	0.93%	3.23%
CHARTER:	CHTR	156.87	0.93%	14.70%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	54.72	1.00%	5.29%
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	54.59	0.98%	9.44%
GCI:	GNCMA	11.24	1.44%	0.81%
GRAHAM HOLDING:	GHC	718.80	(0.83%)	8.36%
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	43.67	1.30%	(30.64%)
LIBERTY INT:	LINTA	29.52	(0.03%)	0.58%
SHAW COMM:	SJR	25.19	0.20%	3.49%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	147.93	1.01%	9.17%

PROGRAMMING				
21ST CENTURY FOX:	FOXA	35.42	(0.76%)	0.71%
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	62.53	(0.62%)	(8.19%)
CBS:	CBS	59.29	(1.17%)	(6.98%)
CROWN:	CRWN	3.45	0.58%	(2.27%)
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	43.72	(1.31%)	(51.65%)
DISNEY:	DIS	89.88	(0.67%)	17.64%
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	37.07	0.62%	22.50%
HSN:	HSNI	60.59	0.61%	(2.74%)
LIONSGATE:	LGF	32.41	(1.04%)	2.37%
MSG:	MSG	66.86	2.74%	16.12%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	79.71	(2.15%)	(7.75%)
STARZ:	STRZA	31.29	4.02%	7.01%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	77.03	(0.26%)	10.48%
VALUEVISION:	VVTV	4.69	(8.93%)	(32.9%)
VIACOM:	VIA	81.03	0.04%	(7.68%)
WWE:	WWE	14.54	(0.68%)	(12.3%)

TECHNOLOGY				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.38	1.28%	(11.52%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	47.10	2.39%	14.21%
AMPHENOL:	APH	103.01	(0.81%)	15.51%
AOL:	AOL	43.22	(0.55%)	(7.29%)
APPLE:	AAPL	102.50	1.16%	9.39%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	30.61	(1.48%)	25.76%
AVID TECH:	AVID	8.45	9.03%	3.68%
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	1.67	12.84%	67.00%
BROADCOM:	BRCM	39.38	0.43%	32.82%
CISCO:	CSCO	24.99	1.38%	11.41%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	7.50	3.88%	(8.2%)
CONVERGYS:	CVG	19.20	1.16%	(8.79%)
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	27.72	(1.74%)	(5.71%)
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	50.43	1.61%	1.43%
GOOGLE:	GOOG	570.96	(1.99%)	(49.05%)
HARMONIC:	HLIT	6.57	6.83%	(10.98%)
INTEL:	INTC	34.91	(0.09%)	34.48%
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	69.60	1.58%	1.38%

Company	Ticker	8/29 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
JDSU:	JDSU	11.55	0.17%	(11.09%)
LEVEL 3:	LVL	44.96	4.66%	35.54%
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	45.43	0.62%	21.44%
NIELSEN:	NLSN	46.99	(0.95%)	2.40%
RENTRAK:	RENT	51.06	2.55%	34.76%
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	7.59	3.55%	(37.58%)
SONY:	SNE	19.11	1.33%	10.53%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	5.61	1.26%	(47.81%)
TIVO:	TIVO	14.10	2.92%	7.47%
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	54.64	(1.01%)	43.37%
VONAGE:	VG	3.45	5.83%	45.57%
YAHOO:	YHOO	38.51	1.32%	(4.77%)

TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	34.96	1.33%	(0.57%)
CENTURYLINK:	CTL	40.99	0.47%	28.70%
TDS:	TDS	26.34	2.81%	2.17%
VERIZON:	VZ	49.82	2.43%	1.38%

MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	17098.45	0.57%	3.15%
NASDAQ:	IXIC	4580.27	0.92%	9.67%
S&P 500:	GSPC	2003.37	0.75%	8.39%

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. BLNDER TONGUE:	1.67	12.84%
2. AVID TECH:	8.45	9.03%
3. HARMONIC:	6.57	6.83%
4. VONAGE:	3.45	5.83%
5. LEVEL 3:	44.96	4.66%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. MEDIA GENERAL:	15.41	(11.03%)
2. VALUEVISION:	4.69	(8.93%)
3. GRAY TELEVISION:	9.93	(4.52%)
4. SCRIPPS INT:	79.71	(2.15%)
5. GOOGLE:	570.96	(1.99%)

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THE KAITZ DINNER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

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