

# Cablefax Daily™

Tuesday — September 23, 2014

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 24 / No. 184

## Pre-conference Symposium: DOCSIS 3.1 Remains on Fast Track

US cable MSOs' deployment of DOCSIS 3.1, cable's latest broadband standard, is expected to be much faster than previous DOCSIS standards deployments, *Jorge Salinger*, vp of access architecture at **Comcast** said at **SCTE's Cable-Tec Expo** pre-conference symposium Mon. That's partly because the development of 3.1 has been faster than its predecessors. The physical deployment is moving ahead as scheduled and set to start at the end of 2015, with interoperability testing starting in the 1st half of next year, said *Belal Hamzeh*, dir and principal architect for **CableLabs**. Products will be ready for certification around 2Q15, while field trials are expected to be available in 3Q. By 4Q, product could be ready for production, Hamzeh said. Salinger said that at Comcast "some work is pending on OSS [operational support systems], and ATPs [acceptance test plans] are under development." ATPs are used to ensure that cable systems can conform with the specifications. Comcast already has added DOCSIS 3.1 in the converged cable access platform (CCAP) specification and is now working on the customer-premises equipment spec. On the hardware side, Salinger said "silicon is well under development." He added that with at least 3 known chipmakers working on 3.1 chipsets, there will be "more competition than ever before" in the 3.1 equipment market. The 3 vendors are **Broadcom**, **Intel** and **STMicroelectronics**. On the network side, **Arris** will use Expo to show off a 3.1 design with interoperability features and pre-silicon 3.1 test products, especially test products acquiring downstream signals from the Arris E6000 CMTS. Arris is working with Intel and STMicroelectronics and using a signal analyzer from **Keysight** (formerly **Agilent Technology Electronic Measurement BU**). The platform is expected to allow ops to implement 3.1 in the downstream through the purchase of a simple software upgrade, avoiding expensive and often time-consuming hardware replacement. In the near term, a priority for Comcast is to work with vendors to accelerate the implementation of 3.1 and reference design systems, Salinger said. Also on top of his to-do-list is developing network management tools for 3.1 to monitor capacity and resolve network problems. There's no doubt that 3.1 will be deployed "very very quickly," he said. MSOs that still currently have no deployment plans "probably want to rethink" their network strategies, he said. That said, several attendees working for mid- to small-sized ops told us they don't expect large scale rollouts until maybe 2017. Several obstacles will need to be overcome to get there, including interoperability and spectrum. Cable ops will need to free up a minimum of 24 MHz of spectrum to support the initial path

## Cablefax PROGRAM AWARDS & Top Ops AWARDS BREAKFAST

*Honoring those who create amazing content and the experts  
who deliver it to viewers.*

October 14 | 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. | Loews Hollywood

Register at [www.cablefaxprogramawards.com](http://www.cablefaxprogramawards.com)

24585

CABLEFAX DAILY (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC ● www.cablefax.com ● 301.354.2101 ● Editor-in-Chief: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com ● Associate Publisher: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Sr Community Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 212.621.4200, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Jr. Acct. Exec: Olivia Murray, 301.354.2010, omurray@accessintel.com ● Dir of Market Dev: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Prod: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com ● Diane Schwartz, SVP Media Comms Group, dschwartz@accessintel.com ● Group Subs: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Sub Questions, Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com ● Annual subscription price: \$1,599/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 4 Choke Cherry Road, 2nd Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

to 3.1. It doesn't sound like much, but then "most of us don't have spectrum sitting around," Salinger acknowledged.

**DISH Wants More Time in Comcast-TWC:** DISH asked the FCC to extend the time to file replies in the **Comcast-Time Warner Cable** transaction, suggesting the deadline should be extended to 30 days after the date that applicants have fully responded to the Commission's request for info and data. DISH complains that the MSOs' responses have been materially late and are "still materially incomplete." On Aug 21, the FCC sent its questions to the companies and directed them to respond by Sept 11. "But what Comcast submitted on September 11 was largely a placeholder response," DISH said, complaining that the answer to 56 of 93 questions posed to Comcast largely consisted of the MSO saying it would provide documents to the FCC in the future. Comcast is supposed to file responses to comments and oppositions to petitions against the deal Tues. Replies to those responses are due Oct. 8. It's that Oct deadline TWC is hoping to change—arguing that an extension at this stage is unlikely to significantly delay the overall proceeding.

**Paula Deen, Mark Burnett Go OTT:** The cooking celebrity has launched the **Paula Deen Network**, which carries a \$9.99/month pay-as-you-go subscription or \$7.99/month for a 1-year subscription (it's currently offering free 14-day trial). The *WSJ* reported Mon that she has bought the rights to her shows from her 13 years at **Food Net** (440 eps in total, plus unaired footage). **Scripps Nets Interactive** cut ties with Deen last year over her admitted use of the n-word. -- **MGM** has acquired a 55% stake in production companies owned by **Mark Burnett, Roma Downey** and **Hearst Ent**, with the partners planning to launch an OTT channel for a faith-based audience. The interests will be consolidated into a new media company called **United Artists Media Group**, with Burnett serving as CEO and Downey as pres of UAMG's faith and family division, **LightWorkers Media**. Not a lot of details on the OTT channel yet. MGM said it would consist of a mix of original new content, film and TV titles, curated Christian music videos, regional and national congregation portals, sermons and user-created, short-form videos.

**AT&T's HBO Broadband Bundle:** Add **AT&T U-verse** to the list of MVPDs with a \$39 broadband bundle that includes **HBO**. What sets this deal apart from those from competitors such as **Comcast** and **Time Warner Cable** is that it also features a year of **Amazon Prime**. The package features speeds of up to 18Mbps, HBO and HBO Go as well as its U-verse basic TV tier. A 12-month contract is required as is a \$99 installation fee. The offer ends Dec 31.

**HD for SEC:** **Verizon FiOS** launched **SEC Net** in Aug with no HD feed outside of FL and TX, drawing criticism from some subs. Late last week, FiOS made the channel available in high-def in the entire FiOS footprint. "So for all of you Dawgs, Gators, Tigers, Gamecocks and more, thank you for your patience, and we hope you enjoy watching your favorite team on the SEC Network in HD for seasons to come," said a FiOS blog post.

**Retrans Lessons:** **Penn State** prof *Rob Frieden* submitted a paper to the FCC Fri that offers a cost and benefits analysis of regulatory intervention in Internet disputes and that is based on lessons learned from broadcast retrans consent negotiations. It suggests that the Commission apply some of the elements in the retrans consent model to ISP interconnection negotiations, noting that the retrans model creates structural requirements in negotiations without directly affecting the terms of a deal. "It appears that ample options exist for most retransmission and ISP interconnection negotiations to reach closure without extensive delay and posturing," Frieden wrote. "Ventures considering the advantages conferred by stalling and bad faith negotiations increasingly have to consider the downsides of such strategy including an extremely bad public image, particularly if they also want regulatory approval for commercial transactions such as a merger. If the FCC can use discipline and modesty to refrain from making substantive decisions affecting commercial transactions, it will find that its nonstructural and procedural requirements can work effectively.

**FiOS Small Business:** After increasing upload speeds for residential customers in July to match download speeds, **Verizon FiOS** small business customers are now getting the same treatment. The SpeedMatch upgrades applies to FiOS Internet speed options up to 500 Mbps. The importance of fast upload speed can be seen in Verizon's projections, which call for doubling of small businesses and consumers on its FiOS network by late '16, with a continued upward trajectory.

**DOCSIS 3.1:** **Averna** announced what it called the industry's 1st DOCSIS 3.1 protocol analysis solution. It's used to analyze, debug, maintain and monitor local networks and Internet connections.

**Programming:** **Great American Country** debuts "Growing Up Gator," Oct 24. Produced and created by Miami-based **2C Media**, the series is about 3 young women who work to rescue wild gators, on Oct 24. -- **Hulu** made a straight-to-series

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

order for "11/22/63," an original series based on the *Stephen King* novel from *JJ Abrams' Bad Robot Productions*. -- **NBCU Hispanic** cable net **mun2** will broadcast in Spanish a package of **NFL** games including, Sun's New Orleans Saints-Dallas Cowboys Hispanic Heritage Game in Arlington, TX, and the Thanksgiving night game featuring the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers.

-- **AMC** will co-produce sci-fi series "Humans" with UK production company **Kudos** and **Channel 4**. The 8-ep series is about a suburban family who buys a refurbished robotic servant only to discover that it has chilling consequences. It was originally a co-production between Channel 4 and **Xbox Entertainment Studios**, but **Microsoft** shutdown the studio as part of a plan to shed 18K jobs.

-- **USA** launches half-hour original, comedy "Benched" on Oct 28. The show is about a corporate lawyer's fall into the rough-and-tumble world of public defenders. It stars *Eliza Coupe* ("Happy Endings"). -- **FX** will be exclusive home of off-network eps of CBS sitcom "Mike & Molly" starting Tues.

**People:** Time Warner Cable confirmed *Mike Hayashi* will retire as evp, architecture, development & engineering at year-end. -- *Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios* named *Freddy Nager* to head its global strategy team. Nager has served as a consultant to **NFL on Fox**, **Nissan/Infiniti** and previously worked at **Saatchi & Saatchi**.

## CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	09/22 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	09/22 Close	1-Day Ch
<b>BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS</b>					
DIRECTV:	87.27	(0.45)	CONVERGYS:	18.38	(0.18)
DISH:	63.47	(1.51)	CSG SYSTEMS:	26.82	(0.18)
ENTRAVISION:	4.22	(0.07)	ECHOSTAR:	50.42	(0.67)
GRAY TELEVISION:	8.40	(0.55)	GOOGLE:	587.37	(8.71)
MEDIA GENERAL:	14.26	(0.81)	HARMONIC:	6.48	(0.12)
NEXSTAR:	43.07	(1.28)	INTEL:	34.71	(0.11)
SINCLAIR:	26.21	(0.89)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	67.02	(1.16)
<b>MSOS</b>			JDSU:	13.03	(0.31)
CABLEVISION:	18.59	(0.58)	LEVEL 3:	46.00	(1.23)
CHARTER:	161.15	(1.27)	MICROSOFT:	47.06	(0.46)
COMCAST:	55.86	(0.88)	NIELSEN:	44.75	(0.36)
COMCAST SPCL:	55.65	(0.94)	RENTRAK:	53.54	(1.22)
GCI:	11.09	0.03	SEACHANGE:	7.16	(0.22)
GRAHAM HOLDING:	712.75	(17.09)	SONY:	17.36	(0.33)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	43.72	(0.64)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	6.80	(0.08)
LIBERTY INT:	28.38	(0.61)	TIVO:	12.94	(0.43)
SHAW COMM:	25.27	(0.09)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	50.38	(1.04)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	150.61	(2.55)	VONAGE:	3.42	0.03
			YAHOO:	38.65	(2.28)
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>			<b>TELCOS</b>		
21ST CENTURY FOX:	34.52	(0.63)	AT&T:	35.50	0.03
AMC NETWORKS:	60.27	(2.34)	CENTURYLINK:	40.79	0.04
CBS:	54.62	(1.29)	TDS:	24.88	(0.43)
CROWN:	3.15	(0.13)	VERIZON:	50.18	(0.17)
DISCOVERY:	39.36	(1.14)	<b>MARKET INDICES</b>		
DISNEY:	89.29	(1.2)	DOW:	17172.68	(107.06)
GRUPO TELEvisa:	34.29	(1.02)	NASDAQ:	4527.69	(52.1)
HSN:	59.51	(0.53)	S&P 500:	1994.29	(16.11)
LIONSGATE:	32.00	(1.92)			
MSG:	65.99	0.07			
SCRIPPS INT:	77.64	(0.67)			
STARZ:	29.74	(0.57)			
TIME WARNER:	75.67	(2.13)			
VALUEVISION:	5.36	(0.05)			
VIACOM:	79.63	(1.33)			
WWE:	13.69	(1)			
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>					
ADVANTAGE:	2.30	(0.04)			
AMDOCS:	47.48	0.03			
AMPHENOL:	103.57	(0.35)			
AOL:	42.61	0.19			
APPLE:	101.06	0.10			
ARRIS GROUP:	29.52	(0.49)			
AVID TECH:	10.50	0.05			
BLNDER TONGUE:	1.36	(0.05)			
BROADCOM:	40.27	(0.61)			
CISCO:	24.97	(0.23)			
CONCURRENT:	7.79	0.21			

Cablefax's

## CABLE BUSINESS BOOT CAMP

October 13 • Loews Hollywood • Los Angeles

**Who in your company could benefit from increasing their knowledge of the cable industry?**

The Cable Business Boot Camp is for everyone who wants to stay current and understand all the latest angles of the industry. Our expert trainers are prepared to divulge the ins and outs of cable—everything from the basic ecosystem to the power dynamics to the business and technology arrangements that make cable's world go 'round.

**Attendees Include:**

- New Employees
- Ad Agencies

- Distribution Teams
- Executive Assistants

- Finance & Accounting Teams
- Industry Analysts

- Legal Teams
- Marketing & Sales Teams

Register at: [www.cablebootcamp.com](http://www.cablebootcamp.com)

# Cablefax 25 years

## Sign up for a 3 Week FREE Trial Subscription!

**FOR 25 YEARS, *Cablefax Daily*** has provided the latest original cable news in the fast-moving cable industry. A long history and deep reach within the cable business sector enables readers to get immediate market knowledge needed to stay on top of new developments.

***Cablefax Daily's*** quick email delivery alerts you to coverage on: TV Everywhere/authentication, finance, regulatory, advertising, digital TV, programming, ratings, broadband, mobile and more.



**Go to [www.cablefax.com/3wktrial](http://www.cablefax.com/3wktrial) to order your 3-week FREE trial Subscription TODAY!\***

*CableFAX Daily* will be delivered to you via email.

\*For new subscribers only.

"I do not start my day comfortably unless I have read CableFAX Daily. It does not matter if you are a newcomer to our business or an industry veteran; daily reading of this publication is a must. It is the best place to get a concise snapshot of the biggest stories in Cable. As a matter of fact, our entire management staff reads CableFAX Daily because it helps to keep us connected with national policy issues and developments at the local level. I continue to believe in and be grateful for the great work that your organization does in the industry."

— **Italia Commisso, Executive Vice President,  
Programming and Human Resources, Mediacom**

"For more than 20 years, I've been a devoted reader of CableFAX. It's a unique blend of topical information and great writing that makes for an entertaining yet efficient read – and I've always found it a worthwhile investment of my far-too-limited time. If I want to keep up with our dynamic cable industry – from breaking news to informed analysis – I always turn to CableFAX. Information-wise, it keeps me covered – I'd definitely feel exposed without it!"

— **Nomi Bergman, President,  
Bright House Networks**

**Multi-user and site license subscriptions are also available.**

**Please contact Laurie Hofmann for custom pricing: 301-354-1796, or [lhofmann@accessintel.com](mailto:lhofmann@accessintel.com)**