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What the Industry Reads First

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Hill Friday: Media Ownership Rules Debated Amid Boehner Resignation

Supporters of loosening media ownership rules argued the change is necessary as broadcasters face growing competition from pay-TV and OTT providers, while critics voiced concerns that relaxing the rules would lead to increased consolidation. The issue was the subject of a **House Communications** subcommittee hearing Fri that was overshadowed by House Speaker *John Boehner's* (R-OH) decision to resign Fri morning, a stunner that came a day after *Pope Francis'* visit to the Hill. Commenting on both events, the panel's top Democrat *Anna Eshoo* (CA) said "yesterday was a historic day... Today is a sad day... [Boehner] has my respect and gratitude for what he has done in Congress over the years." Because of 11 floor votes and—in subcommittee vice chairman *Bob Latta* (R-OH)'s words—"other events going on," the hearing ended soon after witnesses' testimonies. Several subcommittee members were absent from the hearing, including chairman *Greg Walden* (R-OR) and House Commerce head *Fred Upton* (R-MI). Latta presided over the hearing. Walden's prepared opening statement highlighted "competition between broadcast news and cable news; competition between print journalism and online journalism; and competition between traditional media and new media." As a result of such intense competition, "our laws should not unduly hamper the ability of any one segment to provide the high-quality content consumers have relied on for decades." Upton's opening statement argued that "modern laws might have allowed broadcasters and newspapers to better weather the rise of the Internet or the economic impact of the recession, but that relief has not been forthcoming." Among the witnesses was *Gerry Waldron*, partner with law firm **Covington Burling** on behalf of **NAB**. The broadcast ownership rules "limit broadcasters' ability to respond to market forces, while cable, satellite and Internet-based media outlets without comparable restrictions proliferate and take away both audience share and advertising revenues from traditional broadcasters," he said. He pointed to the television duopoly rule, which prohibits common ownership of 2 TV stations in certain markets. "While the **FCC** has effectively prohibited even two broadcast TV stations from engaging in the joint sale of advertising, the largest pay-tv companies in the country have merged (**AT&T-DirectTV**) or are merging (**Charter-Time Warner Cable**), and these companies along with other cable companies, satellite TV companies, and the telcos, have joined forces to create a single interconnected platform for local and national TV advertisers," he said. On the other side of the aisle is *Todd O'Boyle*, program director of **Common Cause's** Democracy Reform Initiative. "Waves of mergers and consolidation—too often with the

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blessing of the Federal Communications Commission—have eroded the quality and quantity of local communications media...” he said. *Kim Keenan*, pres of the **Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council**, urged the FCC to focus on diversity in media. “Unfortunately, since 1978 the FCC’s activity regarding minority ownership has been marked by inconsistently applied policies and, in some cases, repeal of minority ownership initiatives without the implementation of new or alternative approaches.” Eshoo also voiced her concern on loosening ownership rules: “We know nothing we deal with has easy answers but one thing is certain: Relaxing the FCC’s media ownership rules will pave the way for increased industry consolidation, which does, in my view, nothing to promote localism, competition or diversity.”

Sling TV: DISH’s streaming video service **Sling TV** upgraded its user interface. In a blog post Fri, Sling TV chief product officer *Ben Weinberger* wrote “in addition to greater stability, improved streaming and bug fixes on the front- and back-end, you should also notice that the guide looks a little different.” That includes a new channel guide and increased details on Xbox One, better streaming and bug fixes. Other updates based on user feedback are expected in the future.

Rentrak Buys Big Data Platform: Rentrak said it will acquire **SponsorHub**, the Big Data platform offering social media measurement for sports, political and ad brands, allowing Rentrak to offer products that “measure the effect of social media on television, dynamic ad insertion, online video advertising, movies and branded content integration.”

Comcast Settlement: A judge approved a \$50mln settlement in an antitrust lawsuit filed in 2003 accusing **Comcast** of acquiring monopoly power in the Philly area. While the company has denied wrongdoing, it has agreed to give customers a \$15 credit on their bills or up to \$44 worth of upgrades, such as 2 months free of the **Movie Channel** or one month free upgrade from Comcast’s Blast! HSD service to Extreme 105. Former customers can receive \$15 cash.

Papal Visit: Comcast’s Xfinity Latino Entertainment Channel was set to simulcast **CNN en Espanol**’s coverage of the Papal Mass in Philly on Sun. **Time Warner Cable**’s **NY1** launched a dedicated Papal Visit Channel for its customers. **Bright House** and **Cablevision** also carried the TWC channel.

Ready to Deal: With **Poker Central** set to launch Thurs, the network has released its inaugural programming slate. The net’s Day 1 lineup includes the US premiere of “Premier League Poker” (8pm, Mon-Sat) and “Poker After Dark” (11pm). Fri night will see the debut of “Doubles Poker Championship.” Poker Central also has launched a giveaway in which fans can upload their best poker face for a chance to win a trip to Vegas for a live poker lesson with a pro. The net’s gearing up for its Dec 2 world premiere of “Super High Roller Bowl Cash Game,” when players each pay \$250K to try and win millions.

Comcast on IPv6: Comcast said it is and has been ready to the transition to IPv6. In a blog post Thurs, chief IPv6 architect *John Brzozowski* noted the American Registry for Internet Numbers officially ran out of numbers in IPv4. The good news is more than 70% of Comcast broadband subs are actively provisioned with IPv6 support. In addition, all of Comcast’s products and services have plans or already have started preparations to support IPv6 only, Brzozowski wrote. Comcast’s next generation entertainment operating system, X1, is also migrating to IPv6.

Programming: Showtime is offering a sneak peek of the Season 2 premiere of “The Affair,” rolling out a TV-14 version for free on **YouTube** and **SHO.com** on Fri. The ep can be accessed on various MVPD’s VOD offerings as well as through **Roku**, **Hulu** and **Playstation Vue**, smart TVs and iTunes. It makes its linear debut Oct 4 at 10pm. -- **Hulu** picked up the exclusive SVOD rights to “The Goldbergs” through a new deal with **Sony Pictures**. It will become the exclusive streaming home to all existing eps of the series and will offer current season eps the day after they air on **ABC**. -- *Oprah* will appear in a recurring role in upcoming **OWN** drama “Greenleaf,” about a powerful family’s megachurch. The show features *Keith David*, *Lynn Whitfield*, *Merle Dandridge* and *Lamman Rucker*. -- **GSN** placed a 8-ep order of the new 1-hour series “Skin Wars: Fresh Paint.” -- **Lifetime** renewed “Devious Maids” for a 10-ep 4th season to be debuted next year.

Ratings: **CBS** and **NFL Net**’s Thurs Night Football coverage was seen by an average of 16.9mln viewers, according to **Nielsen** fast nationals. The 2 are reporting audience data in the way it was sold to advertisers, as a gross rating from CBS and NFL Net. Through the first 2 weeks, TNF is averaging 19.2mln viewers, up 20% from last year’s 16mln.

Editor’s Note: Don’t head out of town right after Wed night’s **Kaitz** fundraising dinner. Join **Cablefax** for breakfast Thurs morning at the Yale Club, where we will honor our Top Ops and Program Award winners. Register at www.cablefax.com

Cablefax Week in Review

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS				
DISH:	DISH	59.17	(2.9%)	(18.82%)
ENTRAVISION:	EVC	6.68	(8.94%)	3.01%
GRAY TELEVISION:	GTN	12.63	(8.08%)	12.77%
MEDIA GENERAL:	MEG	11.15	(4.86%)	(33.35%)
NEXSTAR:	NXST	44.52	(6.71%)	(14.04%)
SINCLAIR:	SBGI	25.28	(7.16%)	(7.6%)
TEGNA:	TGNA	22.80	(1.81%)	0.00%

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
MSOS				
CABLE ONE:	CABO	426.85	0.69%	0.00%
CABLEVISION:	CVC	33.10	(0.09%)	60.37%
CHARTER:	CHTR	183.53	(4.11%)	10.15%
COMCAST:	CMCSA	56.56	(1.5%)	(2.5%)
COMCAST SPCL:	CMCSK	57.02	(0.35%)	(0.96%)
GCI:	GNCMA	17.64	(0.56%)	28.29%
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	LBRDA	53.99	(3.21%)	7.79%
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	LBTYA	47.98	(1.48%)	(4.44%)
SHAW COMM:	SJR	19.28	(1.33%)	(28.57%)
SHENTEL:	SHEN	42.97	9.26%	37.50%
TIME WARNER CABLE:	TWC	183.79	(3.02%)	20.87%

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
PROGRAMMING				
21ST CENTURY FOX:	FOXA	25.73	(2.24%)	(33.01%)
AMC NETWORKS:	AMCX	74.28	(0.96%)	16.48%
CBS:	CBS	40.77	(4.54%)	(26.33%)
CROWN:	CRWN	5.14	1.58%	45.20%
DISCOVERY:	DISCA	27.84	(1.56%)	(19.19%)
DISNEY:	DIS	100.30	(2.47%)	6.49%
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	TV	27.01	(6.8%)	(20.7%)
HSN:	HSNI	59.50	3.30%	(21.71%)
LIONSGATE:	LGF	38.12	(3.93%)	19.05%
MSG:	MSG	70.81	(6.83%)	(5.91%)
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI	49.58	(6.31%)	(34.13%)
STARZ:	STRZA	38.85	(4.5%)	30.81%
TIME WARNER:	TWX	67.87	(2.54%)	(20.55%)
VIACOM:	VIA	44.52	(4.69%)	(41.03%)
WWE:	WWE	17.14	(5.88%)	38.90%

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TECHNOLOGY				
ADVANTAGE:	AEY	2.31	0.83%	(5.37%)
AMDOCS:	DOX	57.36	(0.47%)	22.93%
AMPHENOL:	APH	50.62	(2.54%)	(5.93%)
APPLE:	AAPL	114.72	1.12%	3.93%
ARRIS GROUP:	ARRS	26.42	(2.11%)	(12.49%)
AVID TECH:	AVID	8.10	(6.14%)	(43%)
BLNDER TONGUE:	BDR	0.68	25.93%	(74.72%)
BROADCOM:	BRCM	52.13	(0.55%)	20.31%
CISCO:	CSCO	26.03	1.90%	(6.45%)
COMMSCOPE:	CTV	25.98	0.93%	1.33%
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	4.80	(3.03%)	(32.3%)
CONVERGYS:	CVG	22.79	(0.18%)	11.88%
CSG SYSTEMS:	CSGS	30.63	0.69%	22.18%
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	43.05	(2.69%)	(18%)
GOOGLE:	GOOG	611.97	(2.75%)	16.26%
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.89	0.34%	(15.98%)
INTEL:	INTC	28.81	(0.72%)	(20.61%)
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI	66.90	(3.42%)	10.05%

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
LEVEL 3:	LVLT	43.53	(6.1%)	(11.85%)
MICROSOFT:	MSFT	43.92	1.01%	(5.45%)
NETFLIX:	NFLX	102.19	(0.42%)	(70.09%)
NIELSEN:	NLSN	46.75	0.02%	4.52%
RENTRAK:	RENT	46.20	(4.03%)	(36.56%)
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	5.99	(5.97%)	(6.11%)
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	5.99	(5.97%)	(6.11%)
SONY:	SNE	25.34	(0.28%)	23.79%
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	4.30	(4.02%)	3.61%
TIVO:	TIVO	8.85	1.03%	(25.25%)
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC	44.42	(4.39%)	(31.69%)
VONAGE:	VG	6.05	(3.35%)	58.79%
YAHOO:	YHOO	29.13	(5.24%)	(42.33%)

Company	Ticker	9/25 Close	1-Week % Chg	YTD %Chg
TELCOS				
AT&T:	T	32.33	(0.68%)	(3.75%)
CENTURYLINK:	CTL	25.36	(1.05%)	(35.93%)
FRONTIER:	FTR	5.00	0.20%	(21.88%)
TDS:	TDS	25.67	(2.17%)	1.66%
VERIZON:	VZ	44.22	(0.79%)	(5.47%)

Index	Value	% Chg	YTD %Chg
MARKET INDICES			
DOW:	DJI	16314.67	(0.43%) (8.46%)
NASDAQ:	IXIC	4686.50	(2.92%) (1.05%)
S&P 500:	GSPC	1931.34	(1.37%) (6.2%)

WINNERS & LOSERS

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. BLNDER TONGUE:	0.68	25.93%
2. SHENTEL:	42.97	9.26%
3. HSN:	59.50	3.30%
4. CISCO:	26.03	1.90%
5. CROWN:	5.14	1.58%

THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. ENTRAVISION:	6.68	(8.94%)
2. GRAY TELEVISION:	12.63	(8.08%)
3. SINCLAIR:	25.28	(7.16%)
4. MSG:	70.81	(6.83%)
5. GRUPO TELEVISIA:	27.01	(6.8%)

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