

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

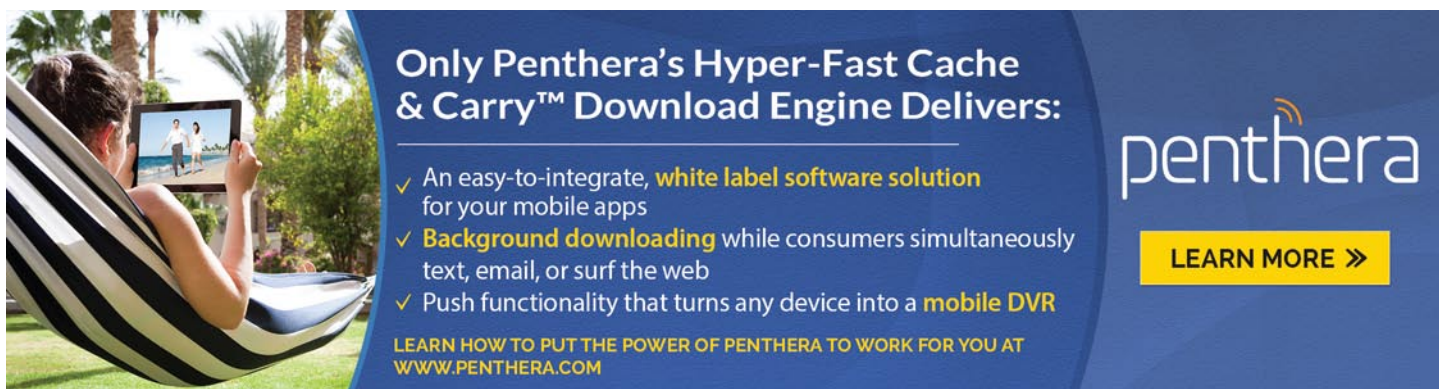
Volume 26 / No. 207

ISP Speeds: NY AG Examines Cablevision, Verizon, TWC's Speed Claims

New York Attorney General *Eric Schneiderman* has his eyes on **Cablevision**, **Verizon** and **Time Warner Cable's** speed claims. In letters sent to top execs at each of the ISPs Fri, the AG asked them to provide disclosures made to customers concerning speeds, measurements of advertised speeds, as well as customer numbers broken down by levels of services. The AG also wants docs related to broadband sub complaints related to discrepancies between expected and actual Internet speeds, analysis of quality of service, and information on any training of the ISPs' employees, customer reps and spokespeople related to advertised speeds. "New Yorkers deserve the Internet speeds they pay for. But, it turns out, many of us may be paying for one thing, and getting another. That's why we've sent letters to the major cable and Internet providers in New York, asking them for information and documentation of the Internet speeds that they advertise and claim to deliver to New Yorkers. Families pay a huge cost already for internet access in New York, so I will not tolerate a situation in which they aren't getting what they have been promised," Schneiderman said in a statement. A key part of the AG's investigation is around interconnection deals. The AG's letters said the office worried that those paying for premium speed options, for reasons mainly due to interconnection arrangements, may not get proportional increases in experienced speeds. "Our concern is that the impact of technical and business decisions made at the point of interconnection between Verizon [as well as Cablevision and TWC] and other networks may affect end-to-end throughput," the letter said. As a result, "we are specifically concerned about disruptions to the consumer experience caused by interconnection disputes, and also the possibility that interconnection arrangements may in some instances render irrelevant any benefit of paying for a 'premium' option." The industry has seen an increase of interconnection deals in recent years as consumers view more video over broadband. Network access providers such as **Cogent** and **Level 3** inked deals with ISPs including **AT&T**, Verizon and TWC in the past 12 months. All 3 ISPs promised to cooperate with the investigation. "Optimum Online consistently surpasses advertised broadband speeds, including in **FCC** and internal tests. We are happy to provide any necessary performance information to the Attorney General as we do to our customers," Cablevision said. Verizon said it's "confident in the robust and reliable Internet speeds it delivers to subscribers." In Aug, Schneiderman asked the **NY Public Service Commission** to investigate the telco and how telecom deregulation in NY is affecting businesses and consumers. In addition, city regulators in NYC recently held a series of hearings, alleging that the company hasn't met its FiOS buildout goals. Verizon claimed the charges are based on false info and that it has upgraded its infrastructure for NYC.

Cablevision Goes Quiet: **Cablevision** cancelled its 3Q earnings conference call and will discontinue conference calls on quarterly and annual results as long as its acquisition by **Altice** is pending. The MSO will release 3Q results on Nov 3.

Comcast Shares: **Comcast** is looking to reclassify each share of Comcast Class A Special Common Stock (CMCSK) into 1 share of Comcast Class A Common Stock (CMCSA), subject to shareholder approval. Comcast's board be-



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believes the move is “fair to and in the best interest of Comcast and its shareholders,” the company said. “[The board] believes that the Reclassification will benefit Comcast’s shareholders by, among other things, eliminating investor confusion caused by having two classes of publicly traded stock and improving the trading liquidity of Comcast’s publicly traded stock.” The MSO already filed a preliminary proxy statement with SEC regarding the reclassification. A vote on the move will occur at a special shareholder meeting.

Yahoo’s NFL Streaming Numbers: Sun’s 1st free, global live stream of a regular season NFL game on **Yahoo** reached more than 33.6mln total views across all devices on **Yahoo** and **Tumblr**, according to Yahoo. The Buffalo Bills vs. Jacksonville Jaguars game was streamed more than 480mln total minutes, with 33% of them coming in internationally. It also scored 33.6mln streams and 15.2mln unique viewers.

Retrans Wrap: Those multiple extensions paid off, with **AT&T** and **Tribune** agreeing to a new retrans consent agreement Fri. Tribune had started warning U-verse customers the previous weekend of a Tues deadline. But multiple extensions kept the stations from going dark as the 2 worked out new terms. The companies’ original agreement expired Sept 30. The multi-year deal includes cable net **WGN America** as well as Tribune’s broadcast stations.

Merger Watcher: As per the terms of the **FCC**’s approval of the **AT&T-DirecTV** merger, the agency named an independent compliance officer who will review and evaluate how AT&T is doing fulfilling the order. The job goes to **Donald Stern**, managing dir of corporate monitoring and consulting services of **Affiliated Monitors**. Stern has served as the US Attorney for MA, the chief legal counsel for the Governor of MA and Assistant AG in MA.

Studying Cord-Cutters: Three weeks into the 2015-15 broadcast season, TV consumption is essentially flat on a whole day basis (Live+7), concludes a **Pivotal Research** report. “Declines are noticeable on cable networks and with younger audiences in particular, but more than offset by gains in activity on internet-connected devices (such as those from **Roku**, **Google’s Chromecast** and **Apple TV**) which includes not only viewing of programming from SVOD services (including **Netflix**, **Hulu** and **Amazon Prime**) and **YouTube** but also viewing of conventional TV not encoded for program-level measurement by Nielsen,” the report found. Pivotal looked at **Nielsen** data for broadband-only homes where viewers spend between 36%-51% of TV time on Internet-connected devices, depending on the age group. Video game consoles account for the bulk of the remainder of the time among people under the age of 50, while older audiences favor DVD playback.

Social Media Scorecard: **Fox News** ranked as the top US Brand on **Facebook** for 3Q (July 1-Sept 30) in Shareable’s social scorecard, averaging 59mln Facebook actions. That put it ahead of social media powerhouse **WWE** (49.5mln), **BuzzFeed Video** (40.2mln), **MTV** (39.7mln) and **BuzzFeed Food** (38.6mln). Fox News was ranked 8th on Shareable’s list of Top 25 US brands across social, with 62.8mln actions across Facebook, **Twitter** and **Instagram**. **National Geographic** had the top spot with 482.5mln, followed by the **NFL** (125.6mln).

Twitter Sunday: **AMC**’s “The Walking Dead” fans may assume Sun’s explosive episode won **Twitter** for the night, but the honor actually goes to **MTV**’s EMAs (European Music Awards), which generated 907K tweets and a unique audience of 5.8mln, according to **Nielsen** Twitter TV ratings. TWD wasn’t far behind with 821K tweets and 5.4mln unique audience. TWD did outscore the EMAs in impressions 56K vs 23K and unique authors (314K vs 259K).

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Programming: YES reached a new media rights agreement with the **Brooklyn Nets**. Yes has televised Nets games since the launch of the net in 2002. Details of the deal weren't disclosed.

Supreme Fashion: Kudos to indie net **Cinemoi**, which pulled off its 2nd annual International Fashion Film Awards event in L.A. Sun night to highlight "fashion films" and the artists that make them possible. Celebs ranging from *Carmen Electra* to *Louis Gossett Jr.* to *Macy Gray* packed into the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills for the event, which Cinemoi, North America pres *Daphna Ziman* told attendees aims "to celebrate and award the filmmakers, designers and artists who are paving the way into the future of merging couture, film and art." But perhaps the highlight was a rousing performance by 71-year-old *Mary Wilson* of The Supremes fame as she rocked the house with a solo rendition of "You Can't Hurry Love." The event also raised money for child advocacy non-profit **Children United Nations**. More info at internationalfashionfilmawards.com

People: Fox Sports hired *Barbara Blangiardi* for the new role of svp, strategies and creative partnerships. She has worked as a consultant to Fox Sports over the past year and was a key contributor to the net's World Cup and college football season launch campaigns. She previously was **NBCU's** Olympic marketing svp.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	10/26 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	10/26 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	62.29	(0.14)	CONVERGYS:	25.59	(0.01)
ENTRAVISION:	8.73	0.13	CSG SYSTEMS:	32.70	(0.18)
GRAY TELEVISION:	14.79	(0.15)	ECHOSTAR:	45.35	0.22
MEDIA GENERAL:	14.63	(0.1)	GOOGLE:	712.78	10.78
NEXSTAR:	52.18	(0.77)	HARMONIC:	5.89	(0.13)
SINCLAIR:	29.46	(0.21)	INTEL:	34.59	(0.31)
TEGNA:	26.27	0.10	INTERACTIVE CORP:	67.57	(1.13)
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	432.43	8.15	LEVEL 3:	48.37	(0.59)
CABLEVISION:	32.55	(0.16)	MICROSOFT:	54.25	1.38
CHARTER:	184.02	1.02	NETFLIX:	103.04	3.00
COMCAST:	62.16	0.18	NIELSEN:	48.38	0.11
COMCAST SPCL:	62.36	0.01	RENTRAK:	53.03	(0.16)
GCI:	20.57	(0.26)	SEACHANGE:	6.73	(0.22)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	53.66	0.22	SONY:	28.94	0.14
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	44.26	UNCH	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.78	0.07
SHAW COMM:	19.79	(0.03)	TIVO:	9.23	(0.09)
SHENTEL:	46.60	(0.72)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	45.56	(0.31)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	185.20	0.01	VONAGE:	6.16	(0.08)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	30.23	0.12	YAHOO:	33.38	0.21
AMC NETWORKS:	71.21	0.83	TELCOS		
CBS:	44.36	(0.13)	AT&T:	33.66	(0.08)
CROWN:	5.82	(0.05)	CENTURYLINK:	28.32	0.30
DISCOVERY:	29.29	(0.48)	FRONTIER:	5.38	(0.01)
DISNEY:	113.52	0.43	TDS:	27.15	0.23
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	27.98	(0.39)	VERIZON:	46.36	0.20
HSN:	61.51	1.42	MARKET INDICES		
LIONSGATE:	39.29	0.63	DOW:		(23.65)
MSG NETWORKS:	20.27	0.11	NASDAQ:	5034.70	2.84
SCRIPPS INT:	57.14	0.15	S&P 500:	2071.18	(3.97)
STARZ:	37.76	(0.19)	TECHNOLOGY		
TIME WARNER:	73.35	0.08	ADDVANTAGE:	2.29	0.02
VIACOM:	51.18	(0.42)	AMDOCS:	60.63	(0.35)
WWE:	20.81	(0.01)	AMPHENOL:	53.83	0.30
MARKET INDICES					
DOW: (23.65)					
NASDAQ: 5034.70 (2.84)					
S&P 500: 2071.18 (3.97)					

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CFX TECH by Joyce Wang

Cisco's Plan

What a busy year for **Cisco**: It sold its customer premises equipment unit to **Technicolor** for \$600mln in July. Also in July, *Chuck Robbins* succeeded *John Chambers* as its CEO. While Robbins laid out his plans for the company, Cisco's presence at the **SCTE Cable-TEC Expo** is a sneak peek into the vendor's near-term plan. A major emphasis for Cisco at the Expo is cBR-8, a next-generation Evolved Converged Cable Access Platform (CCAP). Currently, there are a lot of installations going on in the US, *Brett Wingo*, vp/gm of service provider infrastructure, told us at the show. "We have a massive Tier 1 [operators] roll-out going on," he said. That includes **Comcast** and **Altice**, which is buying **Suddenlink** for \$9.1bln and **Cablevision** for \$17.7bln including debt. Referring to plans after the completion of Altice's purchases, Wingo said Cisco has engaged in planning about Altice's existing and future subsidiaries. There are also "quite a bit of Tier 2" operators rolling out the technology, Wingo said. The technology supports scaled deployments of bouquets of DOCSIS 3.0, DOCSIS 3.1 and converged data/video services. "It's really about bringing DOCSIS 3.1 and video together," offering multi-gigabit broadband speeds while converging video on the same platform, said Wingo. Moving forward, more Tier 2 and Tier 3 ops are expected to deploy CCAP products, in addition to major players, he said. More on DOCSIS 3.1: Cisco is working directly with some ops that are field trialing the latest specification this year. "We are going to see a lot of DOCSIS 3.1 field trials next year and some big rollouts from some companies going early on DOCSIS 3.1." Some ops will start offering DOCSIS 3.1-based services on a limited basis next year, with the tech "very prominent across the industry" by the end of 2017. When it comes to different approaches to roll out DOCSIS 3.1, Wingo noted some customers, many of which are Tier 1 ops, don't need to make

a lot of changes. "They are doing what we call the 'wholesale' approach, going as fast as they can and rolling it out rapidly," he said. Others are going a little slow because they need to make a lot of changes on their infrastructure, he noted. Another approach is the "targeted market" approach, in which an ISP targets certain region or city to launch 3.1-based gigabit services. Competition (from **Google Fiber** and the telcos) and the need for additional bandwidth are often the reasons for this approach. Meanwhile, another priority at Cisco is "becoming much more software oriented," Wingo said. That means eventually being able to deliver features and services virtually, which aims to dramatically decrease service providers' operating expenses. "We are heading down a path of virtualized CCAP," Wingo said. "Management orchestration software of the network is where we are really committed." And a big shift in the vendor community is that it becomes much more about "how we can help you save money and delivery services more effectively," said Wingo. Before, it was more technology-centric.

EVOLVE's New Member: **EVOLVE**, the recently launched group to promote the use of unlicensed spectrum, added **Nokia** as member. The group already counts equipment vendors, wireless and software providers and trade groups, such as **AT&T**, **Ericsson**, **CTIA**, **Qualcomm**, **T-Mobile** and **Verizon** as members.

Editor's Note: Don't forget to submit your entries for the **Cablefax Tech Awards**, which are open to all tech vendors, cable networks and MSOs in North America. Additionally, PR, marketing and publicity firms and other show partners are eligible to compete on behalf of cable clients. The entry deadline is Nov 6. Check out the categories at www.cablefax.com...

Got tech news? Reach out to Cablefax Tech editor Joyce Wang at jwang@accessintel.com



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