

Cablefax Daily™

Wednesday — December 2, 2015

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 26 / No. 231

Fold 'Em: CableCARD Mandate Ends This Week

On Fri, the FCC's set-top integration ban is repealed, meaning cable operators will no longer be required to deploy set-tops with CableCARDS inside. The integration ban's demise was one of the provision's in the satellite reauthorization bill last year. Now that it's official, expect cable operators to pop the champagne corks. The industry has argued since the mandate went into effect in 2007 that the cards were unnecessary in set-tops and costly. Cable will still have to support CableCARDS in retail devices. There may be additional scrutiny here. **TiVo** had a series of meetings at the FCC last month in which it urged the agency to take action to ensure the unobstructed availability of the cards in 3rd party devices, such as the TiVo Bolt. The vendor pointed to a recent *USA Today* column in which the author said it took many calls, tweets and 2 visits to get the CableCARD installed by **Verizon**. TiVo, which has petitions pending at the FCC seeking clarification on cable ops' CableCARD obligations, also noted that Verizon's \$5 charge for CableCARDS is more than double what most operators charge, and thus a further barrier to the use of competitive devices. **NCTA** will continue to provide updates to the Commission on CableCARD deployment in retail devices (the top 9 ops had deployed 618K+, according to the Oct report; in contrast, the 9 largest MSOs have deployed some 54mln operator-supplied set-tops with cards). While the set-top integration ban is no more, the issue of promoting competitive retail devices that can receive cable programming is alive with the recently released report from DSTAC, an FCC technical advisory committee on downloadable security. There was speculation that the FCC might try to push through an AllVid proposal before the end of the year, but there's no sign of it on Dec's agenda. As for the death of the set-top integration ban, "there are a couple reasons why it didn't work out. One is it set-up a structure that requires a lot of support from cable companies. People thought it would be like popping a SIM card in your phone," said **Public Knowledge** senior staff attorney *John Bergmayer*. The cards vary by operator, often times in even different markets, he said. Customers can't just interchange them because once a card is paired with a device, it will stay paired with it until a cable operator unpairs it. The cards "never really overcame these issues, and using CableCARDS was just too much of a pain," Bergmayer said. "A lot of the devices that use them are high-end products or enthusiast products, where those kind of logistical problems aren't as much of a barrier." Public Knowledge supported ending the integration ban, but unlike NCTA, it wants a new communications mandate put in place to help spur retail development. NCTA



Cablefax's
DIGITAL AWARDS

Call for Entries

Final Entry Deadline
December 11, 2015

Cablefax's Digital Awards is the industry's top honor in the digital space, recognizing outstanding websites, digital initiatives, and people among programmers, operators, and industry professionals.

Enter At: www.cablefaxdigitalawards.com

Questions: Mary-Lou French
301.354.1851 • mfrench@accessintel.com

Sponsorships: Rich Hauptner
203.899.8460 • rhauptner@accessintel.com

CABLEFAX DAILY (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC ● www.cablefax.com ● 301.354.2101 ● Editorial Director: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com ● Publisher: Michael Grebb, 323.380.6263, mgrebb@accessintel.com ● Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@accessintel.com ● Cablefax/Screenster Editor: Kaylee Hultgren, 646.764.8267, khultgren@accessintel.com ● Advisor: Seth Arenstein ● Dir. of Business Dev.: Rich Hauptner, 203.899.8460, rhauptner@accessintel.com ● Acct. Exec: Olivia Murray, 301.354.2010, omurray@accessintel.com ● Dir of Market Dev: Laurie Hofmann, 301.354.1796, lhofmann@accessintel.com ● Production: 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: \$1,649/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

views that as an AllVid-like solution that would strip operators and content suppliers of offering unique viewing experiences. The trade group favors an app-based marketplace approach for allowing customers to enjoy content on retail devices.

Retrans Good Faith: Filings trickled in to the **FCC** Tues, the deadline for comments on potential updates to the agency's evaluation of whether broadcasters and MVPDs are negotiating in good faith when it comes to retrans consent. **NCTA**, whose members include **NBC-owner Comcast**, stuck to the issue of online blocking. It told the FCC that denying programming online as a negotiating tactic violates good faith. "The availability of such online programming to ISP customers typically has nothing to do with the contractual relationship between cable operators and broadcasters and is completely extraneous to retransmission consent negotiations," the trade group said. You can guess how most of the comments in the docket are breaking down. Retrans reform supporter **American TV Alliance** predicted that retrans fights will only get worse as online video distributors enter the market. ATVA's recommendations include: prohibit online blocking and forced bundling; restrict blackouts prior to marquee events; stop broadcasters from ceding negotiation rights to others; prohibit broadcasters from insisting on equipment or tech restrictions; disallow broadcasters from restricting out-of-market signals during retrans disputes and prohibit broadcasters from charging for subscribers who don't receive the signal (ie, Internet-only homes or foreign language-only customers). Predictably, broadcasters such as the **News-Press & Gazette** said the current regime for determining good-faith works just fine. "The NPRM starts with a false premise—that the good faith negotiation framework and its 'totality of the circumstances' test have not functioned, and are not functioning, to serve their purpose..." NPG said. "That these negotiations are ably and aggressively negotiated by both broadcasters and MVPDs—and are sometimes contentious and frequently 'go down to the wire'—does not mean there is a market failure."

Jones Acquisition: *Stacey Slaughter*, CEO of **Jones/NCTI**, which provides employee training, consulting and online training for cable, acquired the company from **Jones International**. The deal closed Tues, with Slaughter becoming the sole owner of Jones/NCTI. Slaughter, who joined Jones International in 1996, became CFO of Jones/NCTI in 2012 and later CEO when founder *Glenn Jones* became exec chmn of the Jones/NCTI board. Slaughter plans to rebrand the company as NCTI and launch a new website. "There is a significant marketplace need for the learning and development solutions we provide MSOs, especially as homes and businesses become more connected with more devices, driving demand for bigger bandwidth and faster speeds. The industry is working to meet those demands with new technology and standards including DOCSIS 3.1. We are proud to train the frontline to meet fast-changing technology demands," Slaughter said in a statement. Glenn Jones acquired Jones/NCTI in 2005. Jones passed away in July at the age of 85.

SCTE Names New CTO: **SCTE** named **Comcast** exec *Chris Bastian* as its new svp/CTO, effective Dec 14. Bastian was most recently exec dir focusing on Comcast's Xfinity WiFi network. Prior to his Xfinity WiFi focus, Bastian was exec dir of network architecture for the Comcast Technology and Product Group and sr dir of converged regional area network engineering for the Comcast Network Engineering Group. Previously, he held network operations and engineering positions with **RCN** and **Comcast Cellular Communications**. He also worked at the **National Security Agency** for 10 years. Bastian's background in WiFi, DOCSIS 3.1 and cybersecurity will be valuable in the years ahead, SCTE chmn of the board and Comcast evp/CTO *Tony Werner* said in a statement. SCTE started its search for a new CTO earlier this year when former tech chief *Daniel Howard* was named to the newly created staff position of SCTE Fellow.

ESPN Relaunches Spanish-language Websites: **ESPN** relaunched its Spanish-language websites in US and across Latin America, featuring mobile-first design and ESPN's local, regional and global sports content. The relaunch followed US and UK relaunch in April. The revamped effort includes a redesigned ESPNdeportes.com for US Hispanic fans. All the new sites automatically adjust to any screen, regardless of device or platform, according to the net.

Discovery Go Launched: **Discovery Comm** launched authenticated streaming service **Discovery Go** Tues, letting viewers access live and on-demand content from 9 US nets, including **Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, Investigation Discovery, Science Channel, Velocity, Destination America, American Heroes Channel** and **Discovery Life**. Users can create their own watchlists and search programs across all 9 nets. The launch coincides with the worldwide premiere of Discovery Channel's documentary "Racing Extinction." The service is "essential to our relationships with viewers and distributors" in the US, chief development, distribution and legal officer *Bruce Campbell* said in a release.

Comcast Eyes Live Description: **Comcast** and **NBC** will provide video description in the national broadcast of Broad-

BUSINESS & FINANCE

way musical “The Wiz Live!” on Thurs, making it the 1st live entertainment program in US history to do so. Video described content includes a narration track between the natural pauses in the dialogue and is usually reserved for events like Inaugural Addresses, said vp of accessibility at **Comcast Cable Tom Wlodkowski** in a blog post Tues. The pilot is part of the companies’ effort to continue to improve viewing experience for its subs.

Betsy Magness Roundtables:

WICT’s Betsy Magness Graduate Institute will hold focused roundtables this week in Philly. Topics covered include inspirational leadership and motivating teams. Exec roundtable leaders include **Comcast** diversity & inclusion vp **Maria Arias**, **Carlsen Resources** CEO **Ann Carlsen**, **NCTA** chief of staff **Dane Snowden** and **Tonia O’Connor**, **Univision** pres, distribution sales and marketing. The **BMGI** also will feature a keynote from **Back on My Feet** and **solidcore** founder **Anne Mahlum**.

People: **AMC Nets** made 2 appointments to its **AMC Studios:** **Valerie Cabrera** joined as svp of distribution, while **Melissa Landau** was named svp of business affairs. They will both report to **Rick Olshansky**, co-head of **AMC Studios** and evp of business affairs for **AMC Nets**. **Cabrera** was most recently evp of **TV International** for **Entertainment One**, while **Landau** held several business affairs roles with companies including **Viacom**.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/01 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/01 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	63.66	0.95	CONVERGYS:	26.15	0.39
ENTRAVISION:	8.43	0.04	CSG SYSTEMS:	35.75	0.02
GRAY TELEVISION:	16.94	0.19	ECHOSTAR:	37.96	(1.15)
MEDIA GENERAL:	15.57	0.04	GOOGLE:	767.04	24.44
NEXSTAR:	58.73	0.14	HARMONIC:	5.62	0.09
SINCLAIR:	35.50	0.40	INTEL:	35.09	0.32
TEGNA:	28.68	0.43	INTERACTIVE CORP:	62.46	(0.33)
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	451.10	4.84	LEVEL 3:	52.85	2.02
CABLEVISION:	30.58	0.08	MICROSOFT:	55.22	0.87
CHARTER:	188.88	1.52	NETFLIX:	125.37	2.04
COMCAST:	61.75	0.89	NIELSEN:	47.46	0.78
COMCAST SPCL:	61.81	0.77	RENTRAK:	50.37	1.98
GCI:	21.42	0.65	SEACHANGE:	6.77	(0.2)
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	53.48	0.47	SONY:	26.20	0.28
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	43.14	0.73	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.63	(0.02)
SHAW COMM:	21.04	0.30	TIVO:	9.00	0.01
SHENTEL:	48.38	0.10	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	52.89	(0.1)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	186.50	1.73	VONAGE:	6.47	0.02
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	29.73	0.22	YAHOO:	33.71	(0.1)
AMC NETWORKS:	82.36	1.05	TELCOS		
CBS:	51.10	0.62	AT&T:	33.77	0.10
CROWN:	5.71	0.04	CENTURYLINK:	27.03	0.10
DISCOVERY:	31.08	(0.06)	FRONTIER:	5.08	0.09
DISNEY:	115.39	1.92	TDS:	28.57	0.28
GRUPO TELEVISIA:	29.12	0.92	VERIZON:	45.58	0.13
HSN:	49.83	(0.07)	MARKET INDICES		
LIONSGATE:	34.24	0.30	DOW:	17888.35	168.43
MSG NETWORKS:	19.93	0.15	NASDAQ:	5156.31	47.64
SCRIPPS INT:	56.89	0.09	S&P 500:	2102.63	22.22
STARZ:	35.76	0.48			
TIME WARNER:	71.04	1.06			
VIACOM:	51.66	(0.14)			
WWE:	17.05	0.06			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	2.25	(0.09)			
AMDOCS:	56.60	0.03			
AMPHENOL:	55.49	0.44			
APPLE:	117.34	(0.96)			
ARRIS GROUP:	31.11	0.54			
AVID TECH:	7.24	(0.35)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.39	0.00			
BROADCOM:	55.08	0.45			
CISCO:	27.57	0.32			
COMMSCOPE:	28.53	(0.09)			
CONCURRENT:	4.83	(0.14)			

CableJobs

Post your job openings on Cablefax’s Job Board today!

- Reach the most qualified candidates.
- Check out resumes for free, and only pay for the ones that interest you!
- Job posting packages allow you to post multiple jobs at your convenience at a discounted rate.

Cablefax has a recruitment product to fit your budget and business needs.

Visit us at www.cablefax.com/jobs

