4 Pages Today

# Cablefax Daily

Wednesday — December 16, 2015

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 26 / No. 241

#### **AllVid Proposal:** The Fight Continues

In a few of ex parte filings with the FCC this week, MVPDs continued to battle backers of AllVid, one of the proposals by the FCC's Downloadable Security Technology Advisory Committee to replace CableCard. Companies like Google and TiVo support the AllVid approach, which calls for the development of a device that can be used to access video service. Without directly attacking the proposal, **DISH** in a co-filing with **EchoS**tar Tues wants the FCC to consider potential impacts of the proposal on consumer privacy, customer support, accessibility compliance, contract compliance, repair/replacement and interference before considering any approach. "What obligations do third-party navigation device manufacturers have to protect the privacy of the consumers who utilize their equipment... Should a similar obligation apply to consumer electronics manufacturers that create navigation devices?," DISH asked. In addition, "how should an MVPD handle subscriber calls seeking support for a navigation device built by a third party?" And if a 3rd-party navigation device has "bugs" or other technical errors that render parts of one or more MVPDs' service unusable, what duty does the manufacturer have to fix those errors or replace the defective navigation device so that the consumer can enjoy the entire service she is paying for and entitled to? Roku, which counts major cable programmers and ops as partners, lent support for cable. Given the rapid pace of change in the video distribution market, "the Commission should be wary of propounding new regulatory mandates for set-top boxes that would explicitly or implicitly lock in any particular technical standard or require specific content delivery methods," it said in a filing posted Tues. On the other side of the aisle, the Consumer Video Choice Coalition said it hosted a technical demonstration of the AllVid proposal with the FCC recently, using video fees from 2 different MVODs. The demo "made clear that the competitive navigation device solution does not alter MVPD linear content or advertising." It claimed that many existing devices already would be compatible with the competitive navigation device proposal. After implementation, users could access MVPD content on exiting IP-enabled devices. The group was formed in July and counts Public Knowledge, Google, TiVo and IN-COMPAS as members. NCTA fired at a Public Knowledge filing earlier this month suggesting that the AllVid



Call for Entries
Final Deadline:

**December 18** 

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# Cablefax

## Mark Your Calendars for 2016!

#### **JANUARY:**

1/4 CFX Daily Special Report: Life in the Cloud

1/8 Most Innovative Person in Multiscreen Deadline

1/29 Cablefax 100 Nomination Deadline

#### **FEBRUARY:**

2/12 Best Sellers Entry Deadline

2/24 CFX Daily Special Report: Campaign 2016

#### **MARCH:**

3/2 Leadership Roundtable – ACA Summit in D.C.

3/8 Digital and Tech Awards Breakfast - NYC

3/8 Cablefax Multiscreen Conference - NYC

FAXIES Awards Entry Deadline

Cablefax: The Magazine Multiscreen Issue



#### **APRIL:**

3/11

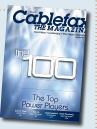
4/15 Top Ops Nomination Deadline

4/18 CFX Daily Special Report: DOCSIS 3.1

#### MAY:

5/17 Cablefax Party - INTX Boston

Cablefax: The Magazine 100 Issue



#### **JUNE:**

**TBD FAXIES & Best Sellers Awards Breakfast** 

6/17 Program Awards Entry Deadline



7/8 Most Powerful Women in Cable Nomination Deadline

7/8 Most Influential Minorities in Cable Nomination Deadline

7/19 CFX Daily Special Report: Summer Olympics 2016

**Cablefax: The Magazine Top Ops Issue** 



#### **AUGUST:**

8/19 Trailer Awards Entry Deadline

8/24 CFX Daily Special Report: Star Trek and Sci Fi

#### **SEPTEMBER:**

9/16 Overachievers Under 30 Entry Deadline

9/20 NAMIC and Cablefax Diversity Breakfast

9/20 Cablefax Diversity Week Party

9/22 Program, Top Ops and Trailer Awards Breakfast - NYC

**9/22 TV Innovation Summit - NYC** 

Cablefax: The Magazine Diversity Issue



#### **NOVEMBER:**

11/2 CFX Daily Special Report: Holiday Programming

11/4 Tech Awards Entry Deadline

11/18 Most Powerful Women Breakfast

11/18 Overachievers Under 30 Luncheon

Cablefax: The Magazine Most Powerful Women in Cable Issue



#### **DECEMBER:**

12/9 Digital Awards Entry Deadline



For more information on advertising, sponsorship and our various lead generation opportunities contact:

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proposal would not require a new in-home, operator-supplied set-top box or major network changes, among other things. Such an approach would only apply to cable operators that use DOCSIS, rather than applying to all MVPDs, NCTA said. Furthermore, implementing such an approach would require massive changes in MVPDs' network architecture, it said. Comment and reply comment deadlines have already ended. It's uncertain when the Commission might issue a NPRM.

Netflix Speed Index: Little change in Netflix's speed index for Nov among the 15 large US ISPs. Verizon FiOS topped the rank with an average of 3.86 Mbps, followed by Cox at 3.76 Mbps, Bright House and Cablevision both at 3.74 Mbps and Comcast at 3.69 Mbps. Time Warner Cable placed 6th at 3.65 Mbps, followed by Charter at 3.64 Mbps, Mediacom at 3.6 Mbps, Suddenlink at 3.52 Mbps and AT&T U-verse at 3.48 Mbps. The bottom 5: AT&T DSL (2.84 Mbps), Frontier (2.53 Mbps), Windstream (2.47 Mbps), Verizon DSL (2.14 Mbps) and CenturyLink (2.12 Mbps). The monthly speed index is a measure of prime time Netflix performance on particular ISPs around the globe, and not a measure of overall performance for other services/data that may travel across the specific ISP network.

<u>A+E Nets Bets on Panna</u>: A+E Networks made a strategic investment in Panna, the cooking brand offering premium video from top chefs and apps that provides video recipes. The programmer led the series A funding round. Panna and FYI kicked off their partnership with "12 Hacks of Christmas," a series of 45-second interstitials airing each night in FYI's primetime block through Dec 24. FYI is actively developing new content with Panna. "Panna is focused on the intersection of premium video content and digital product to deliver great experiences. Given those are areas of focus for FYI, we are extremely excited to partner with Panna," A+E Nets pres/CEO Nancy Dubuc said in a statement.

**Netflix's New Encoding Tech:** To improve the efficiency of its streaming platform, **Netflix** has implemented a new way to encode content on a title-by-title basis, according to a Netflix Tech Blog post Mon. "We've spent years developing an approach, called per-title encoding, where we run analysis on an individual title to determine the optimal encoding recipe based on its complexity," the post said. The new approach "allows us to deliver the same or better experience while using less bandwidth..." The approach, per-title encoding, enables Netflix to deliver higher quality video in 2 ways. Under low-bandwidth conditions, per-title encoding will often provide better video quality as titles with "simple" content will now be streamed at a higher resolution for the same bitrate. When the available bandwidth is adequate for high bitrate encodes, per-title encoding will often offer even better video quality for complex titles because Netflix will encode at a higher maximum bitrate than its current recipe.

<u>CES Update</u>: Consumer Technology Association pres/CEO *Gary Shapiro* will interview FTC chairwoman *Edith Ramirez* and FCC chmn *Tom Wheeler* about their challenges in navigating the changing technology landscape during a supersession at CES 2016 in Las Vegas Jan 6-9. In addition, US CTO *Megan Smith* and deputy dir for tech and innovation *Tom Kalil* will discuss how collaboration is helping entrepreneurship, smart cities and inclusion.

<u>U-verse Price Hike</u>: AT&T U-verse subs will face a rate increase on their TV and voice service packages starting in late Jan. The company informed subs on its website that prices of nearly all of its video packages will go up by \$2-4 per month. The monthly price for U-family and U-family All In will increase by \$2. U100, U200, U200 All In, U200 Latino and U200 Latino All In will increase by \$3 per month. U300, U300 All In, U300 Latino, U300 Latino All In, U400, U450, U450 All In, U450 Latino and U450 Latino All In will increase by \$4 per month. In addition, each non-DVR TV receiver will increase by \$1 per month and the Regulatory Video Cost Recovery Charge will increase by \$0.01 per month. The Broadcast TV Surcharge will go up by \$1 per month in all markets except for Detroit, MI, Biloxi, MS, and Wilmington, NC, where it will increase by \$0.46. According to AT&T, the charge aims to recover a portion of the retrans costs. The monthly price for the Voice 1000 plan will be \$30 for all customers and the Voice 250 plan will increase by \$2 to \$27.

**Programming:** Smithsonian Channel premieres "Paris Terror Attack: Charlie Hebdo" on Jan 4, following

### **BUSINESS & FINANCE**

the attack of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that happened on Jan 7. 10 months before the terrorist attacks that killed 130 people in Paris. -- Discovery Channel series "Street Outlaws: New Orleans" premieres on Feb 22, following a crew of street racers as they look to prove they are the nation's fastest. -- Showtime booked new political series "The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth." Produced in cooperation with Bloomberg Politics, the real-time documentary series follows the 2016 presidential race with stories behind the headlines. The series premieres in Jan. --Nick placed a 20-ep order of original animated comedy "Bunsen is a Beast!" that will premiere Jan 15. -- Health entertainment network Z Living inked a development deal with production company 3 Ball **Entertainment**. The deal will put 3 original series into development initially. -- Travel Channel placed a 3rd season order of its "Booze Traveler." The new season will have 16 1-hour eps.

People: Telemundo appointed Mauricio Piccone as svp of reality programming. He will work along reality programming svp Maria Lopez-Alvarez. Both will report to Jesus Torres Viera, evp of programming and content. Piccone was previously svp and co-exec vp at **Endemol Shine Latino.** 

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MSG NETWORKS:	20.23	0.04	
SCRIPPS INT:	53.59	0.27	
STARZ:	33.16	0.22	
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### Cablefax Webinar

#### Virtual Reality: Are You Ready to Capitalize on TV's Next Big Leap?

It's a Brave New VR World out there, and only the distributors, vendors and programmers who truly understand the marketplace will edge out the competition. Join us for this vital download of everything VR, and enter 2016 fully prepared for whatever the future may bring.

Jan. 19 • 2:00-3:30 pm | Register today at www.cablefax.com/webinars