

Cablefax Daily™

Wednesday — April 20, 2016

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 27 / No. 075

WiFi Conference: Opportunities, Obstacles for Cable

As cable expands the breadth of its offerings, WiFi is expected to play a much more significant role for the industry going forward, speakers said at the Wi-Fi Now conference in VA Tues. The **Wi-Fi Alliance**, which counts companies like **Comcast**, **Arris** and **Cisco** as members, is working on about 20 new WiFi enhancements to handle the increasing traffic, higher broadband speeds and emerging services, said pres/CEO *Edgar Figueroa*. While most WiFi devices today feature 2.4/5Ghz dual-band capabilities, Figueroa expects shipments of 60 GHz band devices enabling multi-gigabit speeds later this year. **Facebook** already has its eyes on the so-called “millimeter radio band” and recently detailed plans to use it to provide HSI in dense urban areas like San Jose without fiber cable. Another Wi-Fi Alliance program aimed at delivering up to gigabit speeds is Wi-Fi Certified ac, which could allow devices to handle applications like UltraHD and 4K video, multimedia streaming and rapid file transfer on tablets, gaming devices and other platforms. Figueroa said a 2nd release of Wi-Fi Certified ac is coming soon, doubling the channel size from 80 MHz to 160 MHz to allow increased capacity and faster data rates. Meanwhile, more WiFi rollouts could feature built-in Passpoint technology, which enables simple authentication and allows ops to enter into roaming agreements worldwide, he said. **Time Warner Cable** is already deploying such Hotspot 2.0 tech to offer cellular-like connections through roaming. Some 34bln devices are expected to be connected by WiFi by 2020, Figueroa said, citing research reports, with the global Internet of Things market expected to reach \$11 trillion by 2025. WiFi is expected to fuel more than a quarter of IoT device shipments by 2019. In addition, **CableLabs** is working with the Wi-Fi Alliance to develop new certification programs to enable coordination between existing WiFi access points and wireless repeaters and extenders. The group is also engaging with CPE vendors about the need for access point coordination, said *Vikas Sarawat*, dir of wireless technologies. **Google** joined the home WiFi router arena last year with its dual-band \$199.99 device, OnHub. Initially launched as a consumer product, the company is talking to various carriers around the world regarding potential carrier deployments, said group product manager *Trond Wuellner*. Meanwhile, a major obstacle to further penetration of connected home services is fragmentation. “There are a lot of individual silos being built... There isn't a lot of commonality,” said Wuellner. He said interoperability and easy authentication is key to fueling IoT industry growth. “Focus on users and all else will follow... the biggest innovation coming to IOT is user experience,” he said.

Ready to Rumble: On Tues, **Viacom** began warning DISH customers they could lose **MTV**, **Comedy Central**, **Nick** and other nets as of 11:59pm ET Wed. The programmer claimed DISH has not engaged in a serious way in negotiations. “This is par for the course for DISH, which has deliberately derailed 10 renewal negotiations since last year by engaging in unproductive discussions and contentious public battles,” Viacom said. DISH returned serve, using a line about regretting that Viacom has chosen to involve customers in business negotiations when there remains time to reach a deal. It has used similar language in dust-ups with **NBCU** and **Media General**. DISH claims Viacom elected to terminate an indefinite contract extension “despite meaningful progress on a new agreement.” It claims the programmer is seeking hundreds

TEAM
PLAY THE MAN NOT THE CARDS.
 THE RULES HAVE CHANGED. IT'S POKER LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.

poker
CENTRAL

LIVE MATCHES EVERY WEEK | 11:30AM ET TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
 12:30PM ET THURSDAYS

ON POKER CENTRAL. THE HOME FOR POKER ON TV.

GET IN THE GAME > CALL SID ESHLEMAN AT 404-414-5772 FOR MORE INFO



Cablefax

TV Innovation Summit

SAVE THE DATE

September 22, 2016 | NYC

www.cablefaxtvsummit.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 ● Sr. 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: \$1,699.97/year ● Access Intelligence, LLC, 9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

of millions of dollars in increases despite reduced viewership and wide availability of content on multiple platforms—an argument smaller operators, including **Cable One** and **Suddenlink**, have made in recent years in dropping the Viacom portfolio. Viacom shares closed down 7% Tues, while DISH was up 1.76%. In Aug, **Bernstein Research** analysts published a note that calculated an expected value of VIAB shares if dropped by DISH at \$28. The model hasn't been kept up to date, but given a significant guide down in affil fees and underperformance at **Paramount**, the model and expected share price would look worse today, analyst *Todd Juenger* said. **J.P. Morgan** analysts believe a contract will ultimately be renewed, though they said it seems likely there will be a blackout. "While we believe the possible blackout is likely to heighten near-term risk around the stock (and impact FQ3 earnings), we believe ultimately there is upside to shares given improving ratings at key networks, better advertising trends and longer-term ability to better monetize **Paramount**," said a J.P. Morgan research note. The analysts said they weren't surprised by a potential blackout "given DISH tends to go dark in ~75% of its negotiations with content providers, although we believe this adds risk to the near-term outlook given DISH has ~11 million paid subscribers and ~14 million total subscribers with Viacom's networks."

Another Step for VR: **HBO** and **Discovery Comm** took at equity stake in cloud graphics company **OTOY** to create "next generation" media and wares ranging from holographic content to virtual reality to augmented wearable devices. OTOY is currently working with *Jon Stewart* on the development of upcoming content for HBO built using this platform.

NAB Notebook: Speaking at the **NAB Show** Tues, **Amazon** Digital Video vp *Michael Paull* said the company's decision to offer a monthly, standalone Amazon Video offering not tied to its \$99 Prime product was the result of studying consumer habits. Paull talked up Amazon's Streaming Partners Program, saying dozens more SVOD services are coming. On Tues, **NBCU's** comedy streaming channel **Seeso** joined the initiative, letting Amazon customers add it for \$3.99/month.

WiFi Conference: *Rob Conant*, CEO of Silicon Valley startup **Cirrent**, said that the inability to seamlessly switch from one WiFi network to another when mobile prevents consumers from using WiFi as their 1st connection choice. While initiatives like **Wi-Fi Alliance's** Passpoint is looking to address the issue, Cirrent plans to bring the cellular model to WiFi with a product launch this summer. "You will be able to go to **Best Buy** and get one," Conant said. Meanwhile, the number of networks competing for WiFi spectrum is exploding, said *Trond Wuellner* with **Google OnHub**. "Since WiFi operates in unlicensed spectrum, limiting interference is key," he said. Several speakers touted access point location and channelization as ways to avoid potential interference, along with intelligent tools like automatic channel selection and self-organizing networks. Turkey-based **AirTies**, which has inked a **Midcontinent** contract, also touted its in-home WiFi tech that uses multiple access points around the home to create a network to ensure consistent whole home coverage. Founder *Bulent Celebi* noted more trials underway with mid-sized and large ops.

Carriage: **One World Sports**, **FNTSY Sports** and **Fight Network** picked up carriage on **CenturyLink** Prism TV. The three nets will be carried on the provider's Sports Plus Package. FNTSY and Fight Net are owned by **Anthem Sports & Ent**. One World, whose deal is separate, has carriage on **Charter**, **DISH**, **Verizon FiOS** and **Mediacom** among others.

On the Hill: The **House Communication and Technology** subcommittee approved a series of bills on Tues, including the Security Access to Networks in Disasters Act (SANDy Act). The bill increases coordination between carriers, utilities and public safety officials and launches a study of the future of network resiliency among other things. "The legislation recogniz-



Partner with Cablefax and collect valuable leads prior to INTX and drive traffic to your booth, May 16-18.

PLUS

Cablefax Daily Show Issues
Cablefax 100 Magazine

Creative Packages Available:
www.cablefax.com/advertise/INTX2016

BUSINESS & FINANCE

es the role the cable industry plays in keeping Americans informed, safe and connected,” NCTA said. Also getting the subcmte’s thumbs up is Rep *Doris Matsui’s* (D-CA) Spectrum Challenge Prize Act, which awards up to \$5 million for breakthrough wireless technologies that improve spectrum efficiency. The subcmte also voted 17-11 for the CURB Lifeline Act, which would cap the fund at its current \$1.5bln annually. The FCC recently voted to increase the Lifeline budget to \$2.25bln.

Programming: *Oprah* is everywhere—TV Everywhere that is. **OWN** has launched its 1st TVE app, “Watch OWN.” It includes full eps of network shows such as “Super Soul Sunday” and “Welcome to Sweetie Pie’s.”

Fubo Figures: Virtual MVPD **fuboTV** reported crossing the 50K sub threshold for its bundle of more than 24 nets, including **Univision**, **Go!TV**, **E! Rey** and **Revolt**. In 1Q, the service added 15K+ subs, an increase of 47%.

Honors: **HBO’s** “Real Sports with *Bryant Gumble: The Killing Fields*” is among the first group of winners in The Peabody 30, the Peabody Awards’ inaugural awards honoring content in news, radio/podcast, web and public service. The Peabody 30 is just part of the new process for the Peabody Awards. This year, for the first time, Peabody Awards announced finalists—60 in all. From the 60 finalists, 30 recipients will be selected to be honored at the 75th anniversary ceremony May 21.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	04/19 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	04/19 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	47.32	0.82	ECHOSTAR:	40.88	0.40
ENTRAVISION:	7.21	0.09	GOOGLE:	753.93	(12.68)
GRAY TELEVISION:	12.23	0.10	HARMONIC:	3.36	0.02
MEDIA GENERAL:	17.15	0.05	INTEL:	31.60	(0.05)
NEXSTAR:	50.31	1.24	INTERACTIVE CORP:	47.08	(0.41)
SINCLAIR:	32.96	(0.1)	LEVEL 3:	53.98	0.30
TEGNA:	24.30	0.38	MICROSOFT:	56.39	(0.07)
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	453.75	1.74	NETFLIX:	94.34	(14.06)
CABLEVISION:	33.56	(0.02)	NIELSEN:	53.96	0.70
CHARTER:	204.63	3.05	SEACHANGE:	3.83	UNCH
COMCAST:	62.28	(0.2)	SONY:	26.75	0.27
GCI:	17.53	0.11	SPRINT NEXTEL:	3.68	0.12
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	57.15	0.26	SYNACOR:	1.40	(0.01)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	38.75	0.01	TIVO:	9.31	(0.03)
SHAW COMM:	18.50	0.06	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	66.68	(0.23)
SHENTEL:	27.35	0.58	VONAGE:	4.60	(0.11)
TIME WARNER CABLE:	205.93	1.10	YAHOO:	36.33	(0.19)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	30.30	(0.09)	TELCOS		
AMC NETWORKS:	65.19	(0.39)	AT&T:	38.92	0.27
CBS:	54.96	0.83	CENTURYLINK:	32.71	0.49
CROWN:	5.10	UNCH	FRONTIER:	5.68	0.22
DISCOVERY:	28.34	(0.21)	TDS:	30.34	0.27
DISNEY:	102.64	1.16	VERIZON:	52.08	0.35
GRUPO TELEVISA:	26.30	0.36	MARKET INDICES		
HSN:	53.29	(0.85)	DOW:	18053.60	49.44
LIONSGATE:	19.81	(0.5)	NASDAQ:	4940.33	(19.69)
MSG NETWORKS:	16.90	0.19	S&P 500:	2100.80	6.46
SCRIPPS INT:	63.75	(0.29)			
STARZ:	25.54	(0.14)			
TIME WARNER:	74.84	(0.38)			
VIACOM:	39.06	(3)			
WWE:	16.36	(0.08)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	1.82	(0.01)			
AMDOCS:	58.77	0.15			
AMPHENOL:	58.31	(0.19)			
APPLE:	106.91	(0.57)			
ARRIS GROUP:	22.09	UNCH			
AVID TECH:	5.88	(0.01)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.42	0.02			
CISCO:	28.33	0.14			
COMMSCOPE:	26.62	0.03			
CONCURRENT:	6.17	(0.06)			
CONVERGYS:	27.65	0.07			
CSG SYSTEMS:	45.82	0.19			

STAY AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME.

Get the cable industry’s must-read, daily insider summary of all that is important, including programming, operations, ratings, people, regulations, financial, and more...

Go to: www.cablefax.com/3wktrial

Get a FREE
3-WEEK trial to

Cablefax Daily

What the Industry Reads First