

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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Business Service: Final Plea Before Vote

Companies and groups made one last attempt to voice their support and/or concern before the **FCC's** scheduled vote on the Business Data Services during its Open Meeting Thurs, according to filings posted Mon. The agency will vote on a Report and Order and 2nd FNPRM that would allow for what it claimed "light-touch" regulation of packet-based BDS and retain and update price cap regulation for lower-bandwidth TDM-based BDS. Ethernet BDS providers, which include cable ops, are exempt from the price cap. Also on the agenda: the implementation of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. The FCC will consider a Report and Order addressing the amount of video described programming required to be made available to consumers. **USTelecom**, which represents major telecom providers including **AT&T**, **CenturyLink** and **Frontier**, cautioned that proposals in the record that would mandate a "wholesale" discount structure on the BDS market would, in fact, impose such regulation. It also explained that while its members expected some form of competition-based price regulation of TDM-based legacy services, "the imposition of multiple downward price adjustments on transport services in addition to channel terminations would have a disproportionately negative impact on some of our smaller companies." The group said such price regulation would result in a "wealth transfer" from smaller companies to larger, multinational companies that continue to grow through M&As. Having said that, USTelecom was happy to see that price regulation won't be imposed on all Ethernet services. **Public Knowledge** teamed with **New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute**, the **Computer & Communications Industry Association** and the **Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition** to ask the FCC to address "the high cost of Ethernet services." If it chose not to adopt price regulation for Ethernet, the agency should "strengthen the guidance for the complaint process when customers face unjust and unreasonably high Ethernet rates," the groups said. Their proposal wouldn't sit well with cable. **NCTA** repeatedly opposed imposing price regulation on low-bandwidth Ethernet services. **ACA** is concerned that the proposed final rules will conclude that "with rare exceptions, providers, including, packet-based Ethernet providers, are common carriers." The agency had no basis to determine that all providers of BDS-like services are providing telecom services as a common carrier, ACA said. That would potentially subject all BDS providers to Title II regulation under the Communications Act and in some cases deter non-incumbent providers' future offerings of either BDS as a common car-

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Diversity in Media

24th Diversity Awards Dinner

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

Partnering with media industry leaders to promote diversity

Corporate Excellence Award

AT&T

Accepted by John Stankey, CEO, AT&T Entertainment Group

Corporate Leadership Award

FX Networks

Accepted by John Landgraf, CEO, FX Networks and FX Productions

Family of Champions Award

TV One

Accepted by Cathy Hughes, Founder and Chairperson Radio One, Inc.



Alfred C. Liggins, III Chief Executive Officer, Radio One, Inc.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, TV One, LLC

Diversity Partner Awards

Major League Baseball

Accepted by Renée E. Tirado, Sr. Director, Talent Acquisition and Engagement



Pac-12 Networks

Accepted by Lydia Murphy-Stephans, President
Pac-12 Networks

Cipriani Wall Street, 55 Wall Street, New York City

For further information, including table prices, please call Maria Ducheine at (212) 997-0100, Ext. 1008 or e-mail at mducheine@projectsplusinc.com



NETWORKS

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rier or business data-like services as a private carrier in competition with incumbents, ACA said.

Synacor 3Q: Authentication firm **Synacor** posted 3Q revenues of \$31.7mln, up 20% YOY. But its net loss was \$3.4mln, versus a net loss of \$0.9mln a year ago, due to investment to deploy and support the **AT&T** portal contract, Synacor said. As part of the AT&T contract, Synacor plans to launch the new AT&T desktop and mobile web portal in the first half of 2017. Revenue contribution from AT&T is expected to start in 2017. Synacor announced the AT&T deal in May.

Ratings: Fri's USA-Mexico World Cup Qualifier averaged 4.6mln total viewers and 2.5mln 18-49s on **Univision** from 8-10pm ET. It was the net's best rating for a World Cup qualifier in more than 3.5 years. -- **Fox News** notched its highest-rated 5-day week ever in total viewers for both primetime (6mln) and total day (3.4mln) last Mon-Fri. The net also was #1 among all basic cable nets in total day, averaging 3.4mln total viewers.

Telecom & Trump: With the *Trump* campaign pretty mum on tech, there's a lot of head-scratching over just what might happen when *Donald Trump* is sworn in as president in Jan. Despite Trump blasting an **AT&T-Time Warner** combo, there are already questions about whether the deal will really be blocked. On Sun, **NBC Connecticut** reported that it had confirmed **WWE** CEO *Linda McMahon* is being considered as future **Secretary of Commerce**. She mounted a failed bid for the Senate in 2010, running against Sen *Richard Blumenthal* (D-CT). **Precursor** pres and net neutrality Title II regulation opponent *Scott Cleland* expects the **FCC** to take a backseat as "the plethora of very different Trump/Republican priorities, interests and constituencies practically will demote FCC-related issues generally back to the sub-cabinet and agency level where they were handled in the last Republican-controlled government," he wrote in a blog post. Obama drew criticism from cable for weighing in on both net neutrality and cable set-top boxes. As far as specifics, Cleland predicts the new FCC and/or Congress will ensure that smartphones are subject to CALEA, favor spectrum auctions over sharing of govt spectrum, and overturn the FCC's Open Internet Order one way or another. Meanwhile, some are using the change to renew their wish list. **The Parents Television Council** on Mon called on the incoming administration, Congress and the FCC to act swiftly on 4 issues—including the confirmation of FCC commish *Jessica Rosenworcel* to a 2nd term. PTC said she's demonstrated a commitment to the needs of children and families. She'll have to leave at year-end if not reconfirmed. The group also wants some sort of network unbundling and greater consumer choice as a condition for approving the AT&T-TWX merger. PTC also asked that the FCC adjudicate any open broadcast indecency complaints and work with Congress for a public review of the TV ratings system to make it more transparent and consistent.

Cross Media Ban: **The News Media Alliance** appealed the **FCC's** decision to keep preventing bcst radio and TV stations from being co-owned with a newspaper in the same market. "[The FCC] concluded, despite the colossal transformation of the way we receive news and information, preventing a newspaper and a radio station from being co-owned would somehow preserve newspapers—and localism, diversity, and competition—instead of hurt them. This conclusion contradicts previous Commissions' findings, court findings and its own findings that are a matter of record," the Alliance said.

50 for VCTA: The **VA Cable Telecommunications Association** will celebrate its 50th anniversary at this year's VA Cable Show, being held Tues and Wed in Richmond. The **Cable Center's** *Jana Henthorn* is on hand to celebrate the anniversary, providing opening remarks at Wed's dinner. The event also will look back at past inductees of the VA Cable Hall of Fame, which honors those with distinguished cable careers and ties to the state. Wed sessions include **SCTE** and **CTAM** panels as well as a leadership discussion with state cable execs. New this year is "Ops & Hops," a networking event aimed at bringing members together with leaders in VA cable while exploring Richmond by trolley and visiting some craft breweries (there's the hops!). Organizers hope it will become an annual part of the show. WICT's VA chapter gets things going Wed morning with a breakfast featuring a keynote by **Comcast Cable** Beltway Region svp *Mary McLaughlin*.

Programming: **HBO** renewed "Westworld" along with "Divorce" and "Insecure" for second seasons. Westworld has averaged 11.7mln viewers season-to-date. -- **WWE's** "SmackDown Live" airs its 900th ep tonight (Nov 15) at 8pm on **USA**. With 900 eps, it's the 2nd longest-running weekly episodic program in US TV history, only behind WWE's "Monday Night Raw." -- **Amazon Studios** greenlit comedian *Tig Notaro's* "One Mississippi" for a 2nd season to debut next year. -- Six-episode period drama "Frontier" has been renewed for a sophomore season by **Netflix** ahead of its Jan 20 debut. at 11pm ET/PT.

Critics' Choice Awards: **HBO** leads the noms in the 22nd annual Critics' Choice Awards with 22 nods, followed by **ABC** and **Netflix** (each with 14). **FX** was next with 12 nominations, with "The People vs O.J. Simpson" receiving the most noms

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of any series (6). HBO's "Game of Thrones," AMC's "Night Manager" and Netflix's "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" each received 5 nominations. **A&E** will televise the awards live on Dec 11 at 8pm ET.

People: *Kathy Kelly-Brown* was named svp, strategic initiatives for **Comcast Cable** and **NBCU**. She'll lead "Symphony," the initiative leveraging both companies to maximize customer awareness and engagement. She'll report to Comcast Cable CEO *Neil Smit* and NBCU CEO *Steve Burke*, working from both NYC and Philly. She replaces *Maggie McLean Suniewick*, recently upped to the newly created role of President, NBCUniversal Digital Enterprises. Kelly-Brown most recently served as svp, global talent booking at NBCU, a division she'll continue to lead. -- **Scriptts** **Nets Interactive's** *Kathleen Finch* promoted a trio of execs, with *Allison Page* now overseeing the programming teams for all six US nets as gm, US programming and development. *Julie Taylor* was made svp, program planning & strategy, US Nets—overseeing scheduling teams across all 6 nets vs her current 4. *Shannon Jamieson Driver*, who already leads marketing efforts for the 6 nets, will now contribute support to SNI's digital brands as gm, US brand marketing. -- *Nicole Sabatini* was named vp, head of integrated marketing for **Hulu**. She joins from **Pop**, where she served as marketing evp.

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	11/14 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	11/14 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DISH:	53.97	(1.58)	INTEL:	34.48	(0.13)
ENTRAVISION:	6.60	0.10	INTERACTIVE CORP:	65.46	(1.11)
GRAY TELEVISION:	9.30	0.15	LEVEL 3:	54.11	0.51
MEDIA GENERAL:	18.55	0.19	MICROSOFT:	58.12	(0.9)
NEXSTAR:	60.50	1.85	NETFLIX:	113.38	(1.4)
SINCLAIR:	31.00	1.40	NIELSEN:	43.07	(1.02)
TEGNA:	22.38	1.14	SEACHANGE:	2.50	0.18
MSOS					
CABLE ONE:	575.00	(0.13)	SONY:	29.99	(0.12)
CHARTER:	263.14	(9.3)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	7.50	0.41
COMCAST:	67.31	0.85	SYNACOR:	2.75	(0.05)
GCI:	16.81	(0.07)	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	68.50	0.60
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	67.25	(0.99)	VONAGE:	6.46	0.11
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	30.66	0.04	YAHOO:	39.30	(1.12)
SHAW COMM:	19.04	(0.22)	TELCOS		
SHENTEL:	26.20	UNCH	AT&T:	36.13	(0.38)
PROGRAMMING					
21ST CENTURY FOX:	27.52	0.38	CENTURYLINK:	24.31	0.51
AMC NETWORKS:	54.93	1.80	FRONTIER:	3.24	0.06
CBS:	58.86	1.12	TDS:	25.57	(0.17)
DISCOVERY:	28.35	1.91	VERIZON:	46.18	(0.51)
DISNEY:	97.92	0.24	MARKET INDICES		
GRUPO TELEVISA:	22.70	0.34	DOW:	18868.69	21.03
HSN:	39.55	1.65	NASDAQ:	5218.40	(18.72)
LIONSGATE:	23.53	0.44	S&P 500:	2164.20	(0.25)
MSG NETWORKS:	20.45	0.15			
SCRIPPS INT:	73.70	5.23			
STARZ:	33.87	0.31			
TIME WARNER:	86.80	UNCH			
VIACOM:	43.45	0.60			
WWE:	18.10	UNCH			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	1.79	(0.02)			
AMDOCS:	58.28	(0.34)			
AMPHENOL:	66.63	UNCH			
APPLE:	105.74	(2.69)			
ARRIS GROUP:	28.87	(0.15)			
AVID TECH:	4.65	0.18			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.50	(0.06)			
CISCO:	31.39	0.03			
COMMSCOPE:	34.85	1.29			
CONCURRENT:	5.94	0.20			
CONVERGYS:	24.03	(0.74)			
CSG SYSTEMS:	41.45	(0.34)			
ECHOSTAR:	50.39	0.20			
GOOGLE:	736.34	(17.68)			
HARMONIC:	5.05	0.15			

Cablefax Industry Jobs

3 Tips to Finding and Hiring the Perfect Candidate

TIP 1 : Target Candidates!

Post your openings on Cablefax's job board to reach top talent and filter applicants that lack industry experience. Ask about bundles to fit your needs and budget.

TIP 2 : Be Selective!

Don't waste time reading pointless resumes. You can search Cablefax's resume database for free, while utilizing the demographic filters.

TIP 3 : Stand Out!

Take advantage of upgrades to add exposure by taking advantage of upgrades, including weekly job eletters sent to over 40k industry executives.



CFX TECH by Joyce Wang

Synacor Talks Authentication

After some hiccups, the pay-TV industry seems to be making significant progress when it comes to authentication, with record streaming audiences for the Rio Olympics and World Cup. What's a key remedy for the typical poor user experience of TV Everywhere? "Simplified sign-on solutions, like home-based authentication, mobile single sign-on, and social login," authentication service provider **Synacor** CEO *Himesh Bhise* told us. Without easy sign-in options, "people are giving up on watching TV Everywhere," he said, noting Synacor has seen up to 50% of potential TVE viewers, with a given TV provider, abandon the process at the log-in screen. "50%. It's that hard," he said. For MVPDs, TV is only one application, he said. "They offer a greater variety of services and subscriptions that also need to be managed with easy logins." The company scored a contract with Apple last year to provide cloud-based authentication service to drive **Apple's** Single Sign On for Apple TV and iOS. Apple has since upgraded its simple sign-on feature: Starting in Dec, subs to **DirectTV**, **DISH** and other major MVPDs will just sign in once on Apple TV, iPhone and iPad to access to apps that are part of their pay-TV subscription. Synacor's cloud-based advanced authentication technology, dubbed CloudID, works around pay-TV ops' proprietary and sometimes incompatible technologies to allow consumer access, whether through WiFi networks, on connected TVs or on mobile across both Apple and Android devices. Bhise said other features key to smooth implementation of authentication services include flexibility and adaptability. That's why Synacor's platform was designed with a flexible layer atop a solid core of authentication functionalities, he said. Equally important is reliability and durability. "Geo-dispersed and redundant servers create reliability even if a hurricane threatened to take a large swath of the country offline," said Bhise. He noted Cloud ID is currently supporting **HBO** and in the last quarter, Synacor inked a new Cloud ID contract with a subscription-based

OTT video provider, a telecom operator and a regional cable provider. Today, Synacor authenticates some 85mln pay-TV HHs in the US through Cloud ID. Through its participation in the Open Authentication Technology Committee, an association of programmers, MVPDs, vendors and system integrators, Synacor is working with **Comcast**, **Adobe** and **CTAM** on a home-based authentication feature aimed at bringing the Single Sign On experience to the entire industry, Bhise said.

Digiflare-Penthera: **Digiflare** said its cloud-based video app publishing platform Video now supports **Penthera's** download-to-go software, which allows video access without an Internet connection. Penthera's Cache&Carry service, which allows users to download video content within video streaming apps, and Fastplay, which enables mobile video app users to stream videos the instant they hit play, without the usual start-up buffering, will be pre-integrated into Video. Content providers can opt to add on Penthera's features as part of Digiflare's Video license.

The Martian VR: **Fox Innovation Lab** is working with **RSA Films** and **The Virtual Reality Company** to launch its VR offering, "The Martian VR Experience." Available Tues for PlayStation VR and HTC Vive on Steam, the offering allows users to experience key scenes from the film in a VR environment, such as flying onto the surface of Mars, steering at zero gravity through space and driving a rover, The move is Fox Innovation Lab's first VR title. The immersive program costs \$19.99.

Editor's Note: Join **Cablefax** on Thursday, December 8 for our Webinar: "Capitalizing on HDR: How High Dynamic Range Could Fuel 4K Strategies in 2017." We will check distributors' progress in launching 4K and/or HDR, delving into the challenges and opportunities.

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



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