

Cablefax Daily™

Wednesday — December 14, 2016

What the Industry Reads First

Volume 27 / No. 240

FCC Alert: Cable Wary of Some Commission Proposals for EAS

One of the FCC's last items of business for 2016 will be to vote Thurs on a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking aimed at enhancing the Emergency Alert System. Cable has some concerns about what's on the table, particularly a false alert reporting requirement and a checklist of best practices for EAS security. "ACA fears the regime proposed in the order would subject well-intentioned operators to a 'Monday morning quarterback' evaluation by the Commission that blames an operator, even if the security measures it employed prior to the breach were considered reasonable at the time," said the association of small and independent cable ops in a recent filing. NCTA voiced similar worries about best practices that were identified in the Communications Security Reliability and Interoperability Council's report, such as keeping EAS devices and connected systems updated. Cable operators "continuously work to maintain a high level of safety and security of their EAS systems in each of the foregoing areas and consistent with their overall network risk management," NCTA said. "There is no need to create a certification regime or impose regulatory mandates." The burden is even greater for small ops, ACA said, arguing that the Council's recommendations were designed for flexibility and not a one-size-fits-all approach. On the issue of false alerts, cable operators automatically pass through alerts as they are received and have no way of monitoring whether the alert is false or genuine, Comcast said in an FCC filing. "While we understand the Commission's concern about unauthorized triggering of EAS alerts, we emphasized that this proposal is simply not workable, much less a productive use of resources," the MSO said. Broadcasters also have issues with the false alerts portion, with NAB declaring it unreasonable to expect a report in 30 minutes and that the current proposal to make public the fact that station filed a false alert would "needlessly embarrass stations." The broadcast group also has concerns about EAS security certification, saying it grossly underestimates the resources necessary. The FCC's Further Notice delves into delivering alerts across "emerging video technology," such as OTT or TV Everywhere services. For example, Comcast said its customers would receive EAS alerts while viewing cable content at home through the Xfinity TV app, but not when using an Xfinity TV app to access TVE content at a coffee shop or while traveling on vacation. ACA said access to alerts across such channels is neither warranted nor feasible, and that the FCC lacks statutory authority to expand EAS requirements to



Cablefax's
DIGITAL AWARDS

Call for Entries
Final Deadline
December 16, 2016

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 ● Sr. Editor: Joyce Wang, 301.354.1828, jwang@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 M. 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

non-programmed channels. Comcast's suggestion is that the Commission instead focus on working with FEMA and other stakeholders to migrate EAS to an IPAWS-based, IP-first delivery system with the broadcast daisy chain serving as a back-up route. Thurs' FCC meeting will be the final open meeting for Democrat commissioner *Jessica Rosenworcel*. The Senate adjourned last week without reconfirming her, meaning her term is up at the end of the year. She is expected to attend the meeting. A spokesperson last week confirmed that FCC chmn *Tom Wheeler* had offered to step down in exchange for a Rosenworcel confirmation. Senate's failure to reconfirm Rosenworcel means the FCC will be left with 2 GOP (*Ajit Pai* and *Michael O'Rielly*) and 2 Democrat commissioners (*Wheeler* and *Mignon Clyburn*). *Wheeler* hasn't shared info on whether and when he will leave the agency, but a new Republican chmn is expected.

GSN's Plea: GSN may have won a victory before the FCC's ALJ, but it still hasn't been moved off **Cablevision's** sports & entertainment tier. The programmer filed a petition seeking to have the FCC order the MSO to immediately comply with the ALJ decision and move it to a broader distributed tier. Late last month, ALJ *Richard Sippel* found that Cablevision (now owned by **Altice USA** and using the name **Optimum**) had discriminated against GSN by moving the channel more than 5 years ago to a tier, while keeping its own affiliated networks (at the time, **WE tv** and **Wedding Central**) on expanded basic. Sippel ordered that Cablevision move GSN to expanded basic or a similarly penetrated tier "as soon as practicable," but GSN said it has been unable to get any timetable from Cablevision. Altice has said it plans to appeal the ruling.

Cable One's New CEO: **Cable One** pres/COO *Julie Laulis* will become CEO come Jan 1, making her the only female CEO among the top 20 MVPDs. *Tom Might*, who has served as CEO since 1994, will continue to serve as exec chmn. *Laulis*, who has been one of **Cablefax's** Most Powerful Women in Cable for the past 7 years, joined the company in 1999. She will retain her current title as pres and will join the board at the time of her appointment. "Building this company over several decades with Julie and other members of our executive team has been the thrill of my career, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with all of the dedicated and hard-working associates at Cable One," *Might* said in a statement. "I look forward to continuing to serve Cable ONE in the role of Executive Chairman, where I will focus more fully on strategy and business development, while continuing to lead our distinguished Board."

AT&T Price Hike: Following **Comcast's** move to up fees for its video and Internet services, **AT&T** is increasing the prices on several of its U-verse TV packages in 2017. Starting Jan 22, the increases range from \$2 to \$8 a month. The U-family package, for example, will see a \$2 monthly price increase, while the U450 & U450 All In package will see an \$8 increase. On its customer support page, AT&T said the increases are due to higher costs of programming. Meanwhile, U-verse broadcast TV surcharge (currently \$4.99 a month) will increase by \$1 a month in almost all markets. "This charge is to recover a portion of the amount your local broadcasters charge AT&T to carry their channels," the telco said.

Ratings: Fox News ruled cable primetime last week, averaging 2mln total viewers for the week. With a slate fully of Christmas warm and fuzzies, **Hallmark** took 2nd place (1.8mln) followed by **ESPN** (1.7mln). **AMC** was home to the week's most-watched cable program "The Walking Dead" (10.6mln viewers), followed by MNF on ESPN 9 (8.1mln) and Hallmark movie "Love You Like Christmas" (4.3mln), which was the top-rated cable movie of the week among households and women 25-54 and Sun's most social original movie premiere on broadcast or cable.

Trump Meets Tech Execs: President-elect *Trump* plans to meet with tech execs Wed in NYC. Job creation is widely reported as a big topic. Expected execs include *Jeff Bezos*, head of **Amazon**; *Sheryl Sandberg*, **Facebook** COO; **Cisco** CEO *Chuck Robbins*; **Intel** CEO *Brian M. Krzanich*; **Apple** chief exec *Tim Cook*; and **Google's** *Larry Page* and *Eric Schmidt*.

VidAngel Case: **Warner Brothers**, **Disney** and **20th Century Fox** scored a legal victory this week, with a CA federal judge issuing a preliminary injunction against **VidAngel**, which offers streaming of family friendly content. The way VidAngel works is customer can buy a movie from the company for \$20. Once he's done watching, he can choose to sell it back. If it's within 24 hours, VidAngel gives the customer a \$19 credit to watch future movies (so it's a dollar per day). "The statute clearly requires that a performance or transmission of filtered content must come from an 'authorized copy' of the motion picture. The digital content that VidAngel streams to its customers is not from an authorized copy," according to the ruling. The court required that "we pull down all the studios' content. We are seeking a stay of this injunction, but if our efforts fail, we will need to take down the movies of all major studios," wrote *Neal Harmon*, CEO of VidAngel in a blog post Mon. He said the company will launch an immediate appeal. And "unlike previous filtering companies, we have the funds to fight

BUSINESS & FINANCE

this all the way to the Supreme Court. We're committed to protecting your right to watch filtered movies in your home," Harmon said. In the same time, the company will "find and create family-friendly shows and movies" for its customers. "This will be a gradual process, so please be patient with us," said Harmon.

Cox Hires New Strategy Chief: Cox tapped *Sujata Gosalia* as evp and chief strategy officer starting Jan 2. The 15-year industry vet had been a partner in the communications, media and technology practice of the international consulting firm **Oliver Wyman**, where she also was head of the firm's NY office. She was also previously svp of marketing at **Neustar**, a cloud-based information and analytics firm. Most recently, she was svp of strategy for **Sodexo**, a B2B services company.

Oculus's Changes: Facebook's VR unit **Oculus** established new PC and mobile VR groups. Oculus CEO *Brendan Iribe* will step aside to head the PC VR division, while industry vet *Jon Thomason*, who joined Oculus in Aug, will oversee the mobile VR group. "Together we'll work with *Mike Schroepfer*, CTO of Facebook, to find a new leader for the Oculus team," Iribe wrote in a blog post Tues.

People: Ex-YUM! Brands CEO David Novak was named to **Comcast's** board. He's founder of **OGO Enterprises**, whose mission is to "inspire people through personal recognitions that deepen relationships."

Cablefax Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/13 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/13 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS			LEVEL 3:57.20.....0.97		
DISH:	58.53	0.75	MICROSOFT:	62.98	0.81
ENTRAVISION:	6.60	0.05	NETFLIX:	123.78	0.95
GRAY TELEVISION:	10.45	0.25	NIELSEN:	42.04	(0.13)
MEDIA GENERAL:	18.82	0.09	SEACHANGE:	2.50	(0.1)
NEXSTAR:	63.10	0.85	SONY:	29.58	0.46
SINCLAIR:	31.55	(0.35)	SPRINT NEXTEL:	8.28	0.08
TEGNA:	22.19	(0.11)	SYNACOR:	3.10	(0.05)
MSOS			UNIVERSAL ELEC:	67.10	(0.25)
CABLE ONE:	615.27	9.41	VONAGE:	6.66	(0.01)
CHARTER:	283.86	5.94	YAHOO:	41.47	0.17
COMCAST:	69.98	0.98	TELCOS		
GCI:	17.65	(0.12)	AT&T:	41.36	0.24
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	71.48	1.33	CENTURYLINK:	24.43	0.50
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	30.28	0.50	FRONTIER:	3.45	0.07
SHAW COMM:	20.66	0.19	TDS:	29.28	0.24
SHENTEL:	28.10	0.30	VERIZON:	52.36	0.60
PROGRAMMING			MARKET INDICES		
21ST CENTURY FOX:	27.04	0.70	DOW:	19911.21	114.78
AMC NETWORKS:	50.66	0.51	NASDAQ:	5463.83	51.29
CBS:	63.06	0.88	S&P 500:	2271.72	14.76
DISCOVERY:	28.77	0.19			
DISNEY:	103.85	(0.21)			
GRUPO TELEVISA:	20.74	0.04			
HSN:	36.30	0.40			
MSG NETWORKS:	20.75	0.70			
SCRIPPS INT:	71.22	0.80			
TIME WARNER:	94.67	UNCH			
VIACOM:	38.90	(0.15)			
WWE:	18.98	(0.83)			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADVANTAGE:	1.62	(0.07)			
AMDOCS:	60.71	0.71			
AMPHENOL:	67.91	0.25			
APPLE:	115.19	1.89			
ARRIS GROUP:	30.16	0.66			
AVID TECH:	4.19	(0.3)			
BLNDER TONGUE:	0.49	UNCH			
CISCO:	30.59	0.42			
COMMSCOPE:	37.03	0.16			
CONCURRENT:	5.36	(0.23)			
CONVERGYS:	25.50	0.11			
CSG SYSTEMS:	48.31	0.60			
EHOSTAR:	51.88	(0.36)			
GOOGLE:	796.10	6.83			
HARMONIC:	5.20	0.25			
INTEL:	36.80	0.83			
INTERACTIVE CORP:	67.63	0.58			

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.



WICT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR 2016 SPONSORS. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT WOMEN IN OUR INDUSTRY.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



CATALYST PARTNERS



INSPIRE PARTNERS



INDUSTRY PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNERS



INDUSTRY SPONSOR



Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Visit wict.org for more information.

