

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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New Era: Title II is No Longer the Law of the Land

ISPs may find themselves facing a new round of questions and criticisms from customers now that Title II regulation has officially ended and the FCC's "Restoring Internet Order" is in effect. Proponents of the rules put in place in 2015 under Obama's FCC are continuing their full-court press to revive the regulations. *Consumer Reports*, the well-known magazine from nonprofit **Consumers Union**, sent an action alert Monday urging people to contact their members of Congress, joining others in participating in an internet-wide day of action. "The telecom industry lobbied hard to ensure this day would come, and they are hoping that net neutrality is gone forever. But they may have underestimated the power of millions of American consumers standing up and demanding that we bring back these protections," the magazine read. Speaking Saturday at the **US Conference of Mayors** in Boston, Democrat FCC commish *Jessica Rosenworcel* said that the rollback has "awoke a sleeping giant," noting that states, cities and towns are coming forward with new laws, initiatives and executive orders to lessen the impact. "There are efforts everywhere to overturn the mess the agency made. This one's not over. So I'm not giving up—and neither should you," Rosenworcel said. Along those lines, *Rep Mike Doyle* (D-PA) said the fight to save net neutrality isn't over despite the House not gathering enough support to force a vote on the issue. Doyle said 50 more supporters are needed to force a vote through a discharge petition. "It's still possible to save Net Neutrality, however. The Senate has voted to overturn the FCC order that killed off Net Neutrality. Now the House must do the same," he said. *Sen Ed Markey* (D-MA), whose resolution of disapproval passed the Senate last month, called on House Speaker *Paul Ryan* to schedule an immediate vote on the measure. "Until that happens, we will continue to demonstrate in the streets, write letters, make calls, sign petitions, and harness the power of social media. The fight for net neutrality is far from over," Markey said. On the other side of the debate, you had FCC chmn *Ajit Pai* making the round defending the change-up. He appeared on "CBS This Morning" Monday, highlighting that the **FTC** has been empowered to take action against any company that might act in an anticompetitive way. Pai's talking points are that these rules should help usher in better, faster, cheaper internet with companies more likely to invest in broadband and network expansion. Industry reps also took matters into their own hands. "If you want 2 read #FakeNews in my business, let's start w/this untruthful headline from @CNN. The #internet is NOT neutral

CABLE TV'S **#1 VALUE** NETWORK



GAME SHOW NETWORK

GAME SHOW NETWORK
delivers more viewers for less money
than any other stand-alone network.

Valuable Audience • Valuable Programming • Value Network

Source: "#1 value" and "more viewers for less money" based on comparative analysis of ratings to license fees. Source for ratings and competitive license fees: Nielsen NPower, Composite - Total Day, 6A - 6A, P2+, M-Su, 05/29/2017 - 05/27/2018 ad supported cable networks excluding free services and buy-through networks; 2017 SNL Kagan reported license fees.

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when only #ISPs are regulated & #EdgeProviders are not. Plus, NO ISP is going to harm consumers as this falsehood suggests,” **ACA** pres/CEO *Matt Polka* tweeted Sunday. **NCTA** chief *Michael Powell* was quiet on social media, but the trade association posted a blog called “Why the Internet will Remain Open and Neutral,” declaring that “ISPs keep their customers happy by providing the best experience possible, not by forcing limitations through some Machiavellian throttling scheme that is hardly even possible to design, let alone enforce.” That’s a message ISPs have been chanting for months. Still, they repeated the refrain Monday. **AT&T**: “The internet will continue to function just as it did yesterday, empowering this generation and those that follow with robust access to information, entertainment and, most importantly, to each other.” **Comcast**: “We still don’t and won’t block, throttle or discriminate against lawful content. We’re still not creating fast lanes. We still don’t have plans to enter into any so-called paid prioritization agreements.” **Charter**: “With the removal of the utility-style Title II framework, nothing is changing about our online practices because maintaining an open internet is critical to enabling our customers to engage with the content they want, when they want, and as much as they want. Simply put, we put our customers’ experience first.”

Here Comes the Judge: Tuesday is when the DC Circuit judge *Richard Leon* expected to rule on whether **AT&T** can proceed with its acquisition of **Time Warner** against the DOJ’s wishes. Plenty of predictions out there ahead of the decision, with most, including **Fox News** senior judicial analyst Judge *Andrew Napolitano*, predicting that AT&T will prevail. “When the judge comes down with this ruling, it will pretty much... set the pace for the rest of the Trump administration about whether the DOJ will aggressively interfere on proposed mergers or go a little softer on them,” Napolitano said, predicting that Leon’s order will essentially be “bulletproof” and survive an expected appeal by the DOJ. Of course, the ruling is expected to impact **Comcast’s** bid for Fox assets and could ignite a bidding war with **Disney**.

Bernstein Research analysts expect Disney shares to move in the opposite direction of the ruling. A yes should send shares down, while shares are expected to rally if the court blocks the deal—though the analysts say the rally would be short lived as investors and analysts would have to come to grips with the major money needed to prepare and launch a direct-to-consume entertainment service. “For the media ‘free radicals’ (CBS, VIAB, DISCA, AMCX, LGF), ‘yes’ probably would provide an overall bid for the sector (‘M&A is on!’). But that only sustains if a bidder exists for the particular company/stock, which we think is only likely for CBS, and LGF at the right price,” Bernstein said in a note to clients.

The X Factor: The streaming apps for **TBS** and **TNT** are now on the **Microsoft** Xbox One game console. This is part of an effort by the pair to achieve complete screen ubiquity, leading to launches on more Smart TVs later this month.

Ready for Discovery: **fuboTV** unveiled a new home page in an effort to make it easier for viewers to discover content.

Cablefax:

What’s Happening in July

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»» Top Operators Magazine

Cablefax’s annual Top Operators Magazine, salutes the operators who are at the forefront of innovation and creativity in the cable industry.

Special Feature: ACA’s 25th Anniversary

»» Independent Voices in Media

Cablefax will analyze the state of independent content as the bundle unravels, OTT flourishes and direct-to-consumer content options across multiple devices has never been more robust. Where will the indie nets and smaller Where will the indie nets and niche players fare in this Brave New World? We’ll take a comprehensive look at the state of the marketplace.

»» The Independent Show

As independent operators return to Anaheim, CA for their annual gathering, Cablefax will preview and cover the regulatory, technology and business strategy debates that always make this NCTC-ACA event a must-attend for anyone with skin in the game.

»» Summer TCA

Summer TCA tends to be a hotbed of news about upcoming fall premieres and other programming — not to mention executive sessions that will address everything from the changing TV business, to ratings and measurement, to the marketing challenges in an increasingly competitive environment.

Awards

Most Influential Minorities

Deadline:
July 13

Most Powerful Women

Deadline:
July 20

The page will not only highlight sports content, but general entertainment and news as the platform moves away from being a sports-only streaming destination. The page is rolling out first across fuboTV on the web, moving out to mobile and OTT apps shortly.

Courtside Seats: Didn't quite get the seat you wanted at your most-anticipated college sporting event this season? **Pac-12 Networks** has you covered. It worked with **YouTube** to create VR180 content for the platform at several of the conference's major sporting events. The content, which includes USC's celebration on the field following the Pac-12 Football Championship, is featured on YouTube's "Discover VR180" playlist and can be found on Pac-12's YouTube Channel, **Google** Cardboard, Google Daydream View and other VR devices.

Supporting Storytelling: **HBO** and the **Independent Filmmaker Project** created a fund to offer assistance to up-and-coming storytellers with fresh content perspectives. The IFP/HBO New True Stories Funding Initiative will identify non-fiction creatives and journalists across print, video and audio and support them in developing their work. HBO will sponsor grants for those creatives with development funds. Submissions will be considered on a rolling basis.

Black Music Month: June is Black Music Month, and **Comcast** is going all out. Highlights include a music playlist curated by *Oprah Winfrey* herself, 34 black music movies, 26 black music themed TV shows and 29 black music docs all under the Black Film & TV VOD folder. Additional offerings include playlists from musician *Black Thought* and filmmaker/director *Mara Brock Akil* and soundtrack trivia from popular black movies. This year's Black Music Month experience's theme is "Music that moves the culture," with Comcast tapping *The Roots*' Black Thought to create a promo spot for the month and share his views on how black music as a whole has influenced the world.

Public Access Channels: **Cox Communications'** Connecticut Public Access Channel (PATV 15) has upgraded and added three additional bulletin board systems at its Manchester location to deliver town-specific programming on a trio of new hyper local access channels. The expansion comes through the deployment of Cablecast Community Media platform and Carousel Digital Signage software from **Tightrope Media Systems**. With its most recent expansion, the Manchester facility now offers three 'local access' channels for individual towns alongside its main public access channel, which serves six municipalities in the area.

Awards Season: **NAMIC** is accepting [entries for the 2018 EMMAs](#). The organization partners with **Cablefax** to recognize innovative marketing efforts aimed at multicultural audiences. This year, there are four divisions with participants competing in two categories: integrated marketing campaigns and marketing tactics for both traditional and digital. The winners will be honored at the 32nd Annual NAMIC Conference from October 16-17 in NYC and will also be featured in **Cablefax: The Magazine**. The deadline for submissions is July 20.

Ratings: May was a month filled with cheers for **FS1** with all of its daily studio shows being up on average to date in 2018 over 2017. "Undisputed" is up 37%, "The Herd" is up 19% while "Speak For Yourself" is up 21%.

Programming: **HBO's** latest sports doc highlights the strict rules governing amateur athletes in America. "Student Athlete," which gets into how these regulations affect unpaid athletes and their families, premieres Oct 2, 10pm. The network also renewed "Succession" for a second season. Created by *Jesse Armstrong*, the series follows a family controlling one of the biggest media conglomerates in the world. -- Fans can continue to "Fear the Walking Dead" starting on Aug 12 on **AMC**. The second half of Season 4 will include eight episodes. -- **Lifetime** is continuing to celebrate summer's arrival by bringing new movies to its lineup every Sunday through July. The upcoming movies are "Killer Single Dad" (July 1, 8pm), "Murdered at 17" (July 8, 8pm), "The Nanny Is Watching" (July 15, 8pm) and "A Father's Nightmare" (July 22, 8pm). -- **Travel Channel** will encore "Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations" Tuesday nights at 10pm through July 3.

Our Condolences: Our deepest sympathies to *Rocco Commisso, Italia Commisso- Weinand* and the rest of the family on the passing of matriarch *Maria Rosa Commisso* Saturday. She was 97. Calling hours are at the Fred H. McGrath & Son, Funeral Home, Bronxville, between 1-4pm and 6-9 pm, Monday. Mass of Christian Burial, St. Joseph's Church, Bronxville, on Tuesday at 10:45am. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Maria Rosa Commisso Memorial Fund at Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, NY.

People: *Frederick Nys* was named vp of engineering at **AirTies**. Nys will also act as a member of the company's senior leadership team. He most recently served as vp of product development for Telco Gateways at **Technicolor S.A.**

Editor's Note: Entries are due June 22 for the **Cablefax** Program & Trailer Awards, recognizing the best programs regardless of platform as well as promos that entice viewers to engage with their favorite shows, movies, video games, web content and consumer brands. [Enter your nomination](#) today. Winners will be revealed at an awards dinner in L.A. on Nov 8.

CFX TECH

Three Decades of Innovation

Few have ridden the waves of cable's history while contributing so heavily to its advancement like **CableLabs**.

The 1990s saw it developing technology that became integral to those in the Mobile LTE space. Fifteen years back saw the non-profit laying the groundwork for technology that now supports high-speed fiber around the globe. From DOCSIS to the MPEG standard, it's difficult to imagine where the industry would be without CableLabs driving the technology supporting it all.

And now the organization celebrates thirty years of creative. It all began when three men found that the booming cable industry was lacking in any way to support R&D. *Dick Green, John Malone* and *Dick Leghorn* decided to fill the hole with CableLabs, a non-profit organization.

"The cable industry needs a sustained, long-range, integrated R&D effort to exploit technological opportunities, to avoid being overwhelmed by technical challenges, and to attract supplier initiatives to cable's needs in the face of competing demands," Malone said in CableLabs' first days.

The group came together with three main objectives: to provide a central source of timely information about technical developments that could be of interest, to plan and fund R&D projects that would be supported on a cooperative basis and to act as a facilitator of the transfer of relevant technology to member companies and suppliers to the industry.

It took a village to bring the idea to fruition. In a 2008 interview with *Craig Kohl*, Leghorn recalled former **NCTA** president *Jim Mooney* being one of CableLabs' biggest cheerleaders, counting him as almost another founding member. "...it wouldn't have happened, CableLabs, without Jim Mooney

and John Malone," Leghorn said. "Jim Mooney, who recognized the need for the thing, set up this committee and NCTA supported it completely, gave us a budget to get started with; and then John Malone taking on the committee."

Since the start, the non-profit hasn't passed through many hands. Green started as the first CEO in 1988 before passing on the reins to *Paul Liao* in 2010. Following Liao's decision not to renew his contract, *Phil McKinney* hopped on to head the organization in 2012. It's maintained its identity as the R&D hub for the industry, focusing on the initiatives that cable operators haven't had the time or energy to move forward.

And CableLabs' influence today can't be argued. More than 50% of US households have at least one piece of CableLabs technology in their home today, as more than 700mln devices carry the non-profit's logo. Close to 2.3bln DOCSIS modems have been shipped since 2000.

With smart home technology, virtual reality, 5G, DOCSIS and the constant state of transformation becoming more the norm every day, there's no doubt that the industry can continue to count on CableLabs to not just navigate the ups and downs, but lead the way to the next great innovation. – *Sara Winegardner*

ANGA Notebook: **Liberty Global** picked the optical nodes and amplifiers from **Vector Technologies** as the tools to roll out its gigabit services. The provided solutions are DOCSIS 3.1 compliant and can achieve a downstream frequency of up to 1.2GHz. -- **Huber+Suhner** is at **ANGA COM 2018**, showing off its fiber management solution as well as its full line of complementary products. The IANOS system will be on display as well as a revamped LiSA side access patch tray solution. ANGA COM 2018 runs from June 12-14 in Cologne, Germany.

CFX *Cablefax*
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Honoring the Best Content & People on All Programming Platforms

ENTER TODAY!

Sponsorship Opportunities: Olivia Murray at omurray@accessintel.com
Questions: Mary-Lou French at mfrench@accessintel.com

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Entry Deadline:

Friday, June 22, 2018

Final Entry Deadline:

Friday, June 29, 2018

Enter at:
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