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What the Industry Reads First

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10G Forward: CableLabs Introduces Dual Channel Wi-Fi

The road to 10G is now that much shorter with **CableLabs'** development of Dual Channel Wi-Fi technology. The tech addresses the oh-so-common issue of network congestion by offering more than one channel for downstream-only data to travel on as well as the traditional primary channel, which sees both upstream and downstream packet traffic. "Delivering 10G over the infrastructure is one thing, but equally important is the ability to deliver the experience and the connectivity to the end users' device," CableLabs svp/CTO *Belal Hamzeh* said on a press call. "We look at this technology as one of the fundamental technologies that could truly enable a wireless household." With Dual Channel Wi-Fi, the additional channels would be used for data that's more time sensitive and cumbersome for the network to handle, including video. By giving the network additional channels on which to offload those packets, the hope would be a smaller number of service disruptions and more stable speeds across devices for end users. And, of course, fewer disruptions mean fewer service calls. At least 15% of customer service calls are WiFi related, CableLabs director, wireless technology *Luther Smith* wrote in a blog post. And when it comes down to the dollars and cents of it all, those calls transform into more than \$600mln in annual support costs for the cable industry in North America alone. If all goes as planned, the rollout of dual channel should benefit end user and provider alike. The technology does require devices that support Dual Channel Wi-Fi on both ends: the access point and the end user's device. But those devices won't be the only ones affected by the technology. According to Hamzeh, the freed-up space on user networks will allow legacy devices to experience upticks as well. "One of the main benefits of the Dual Channel Wi-Fi is that it alleviates congestion on the WiFi channels," he said. "You have more airtime available to all WiFi devices. By having more airtime and less congestion on the WiFi channels, legacy devices also have the ability to access the channel and see higher speeds." Dual Channel Wi-Fi rollouts should be coming in the near future. CableLabs has developed open source code for RDK-B and RDK-V platforms and is working with **Edgewater Wireless** to develop a Dual Channel implementation for OpenWRT platforms. As for the rest of the road to 10G, the industry is inching closer to the new industry benchmark thanks to the rollouts of DOCSIS 3.1, Wi-Fi 6 and small cells. The next milestone, what CableLabs calls "v2," will see speeds reach 5Gbps as well as the launch of technologies like full duplex DOCSIS, Wi-Fi 7 and P2P coherent optics.

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Three Ayes: T-Mobile and Sprint seemingly have the third FCC yes needed to gain the Commission's approval for their \$26bln merger. While FCC chmn *Ajit Pai* and commish *Brendan Carr* revealed their support for the deal with the applicants' commitments to divest **Boost Mobile** early Monday, commish *Michael O'Rielly* waited until the evening to make his opinion known. "While I generally withhold all comments regarding pending or prospective mergers, I find it necessary to clarify, at this time, that I am inclined to support T-Mobile/Sprint proposed merger, even if not convinced of the need for all the newly announced conditions being proposed," O'Rielly tweeted late Monday.

TiVo Time: TiVo's TV Viewership Data product will expand to include **Kantar** ad occurrences and **Drawbridge's** Identity Graph and demographic attributes. This will give TiVo customers an expanded data offering with more flexibility. Kantar ad data will now enable customers to know both the programming viewership and advertising viewership across millions of US households. The Drawbridge Identity Graph links viewership data with associated mobile ad identifiers, extending reach and measurement of ads and marketing across pay-TV, OTT and digital platforms.

Streaming Wins: Video streaming continues raising its lead in customer satisfaction over traditional subscription TV service, according to a study from the **ACSI**. Streaming jumped up 1.3% to a score of 76 on a 100-point scale, where subscription-TV service remained stagnant at 62. ISPs came in last place among all industries tracked by the ACSI. Of the video streaming services, **Netflix** comes in highest with a 1% gain at 79, after previously sharing with **Twitch** and **PlayStation Vue**. Vue clocked in second with 78, followed by **Microsoft** at 77. **Hulu** jumped up 1% to match **Amazon Prime Video** (also 1%) and **Apple iTunes** (down 1) at 76. **AT&T's U-verse** had the lead for subscription TV despite a 1% slip to 69, followed by **Verizon's Fios** at 68 and **DISH** at 67 (both unchanged). **DirecTV** gained 3% to score of 66, though the report noted "this may be the result of shedding dissatisfied subscribers, leaving only the most loyal customers." **Altice's Optimum** fell 2% to 61, while **Charter** rose 2% to 59. **Cox** also scored a 59, slipping 2%. **Frontier** and **Comcast** both scored 57, followed by **Mediacom** (56, +2%) and Altice's **Suddenlink** (55, -5%).

Comcast Echoes: If you ever wanted your **Amazon Echo** or **Google Home** to be able to help save your life, **Comcast** is coming in with the solution. A team led by *Sumit Nagpal*, svp/gm, health innovation at Comcast has been working on an assistant for health monitoring for over a year, according to a [report](#) from **CNBC**. The device will begin pilot-testing this year, and the intention is to roll it out next year. It will monitor people's basic health using ambient sensors, as well as tools for detecting falls. According to the report, Comcast is already in talks with hospitals about taking on shared savings to prevent expensive emergency room visits.

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Synamedia Joins Forces: Synamedia partnered up with **Evergent**, a provider of solutions for revenue and subscriber management. The partnership will integrate Evergent's revenue and customer management platform into Synamedia's Infinite platform to help their joint telecom, media and entertainment customers launch DTC services quickly. It will reduce time to market for new offerings and grow the business over time with target promotions and bundles.

FCC Educates: The **FCC** launched a new consumer video as part of an effort to educate consumers nationwide about frequency changes happening to some TV channels from now through July 2020. The channels are changing frequencies as part of the incentive auction repack process. The FCC recommends that if consumers are watching over-the-air TV using antennas, they should consider rescanning their TVs to find missing channels. The video walks consumers through how to rescan their TVs in order to find the channels.

Going Digital: **Bravo** and **Oxygen** are launching a slew of digital initiatives rolling out this year, including loyalty programs for both nets. In June, "Bravo Insider" and "Detective's Den" go live, allowing fans to subscribe and gain access to exclusive news, content, giveaways and more. Bravo is launching new digital series in 2019, including "Live After Bravo" and "Fans Ask Bravo." It's bringing back after shows and fan-favorite video series "Beauty Bag" and "Housewife to Housewife." In addition to previously announced "The Vanished Project," Oxygen is launching three new crime series and continuing two digital series: "How to Stay Safe" and "Famous Cases Explained."

D-Day: **Nat Geo** will commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day with a week of programming dedicated to WWII. Starting June 3 at 9pm, the D-Day Marathon includes premieres of original specials such as "Drain the Oceans: Secrets of D-Day," "Hitler's Last Stand: Lost Battalion," "Eyewitness: D-Day" and "The King Who Fooled Hitler." All specials will air in 172 countries and 43 languages. **AccuWeather Network** is also commemorating the 75th anniversary, beginning May 31. The net will air a special programming series on the significance of weather and forecasting in planning for the turning point of WWII. The series will run through June 6.

Programming: Season 2 of "The Good Trouble" premieres on **Freeform** June 18 at 8pm. -- **Smithsonian Channel** will mark the 50-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which took place in 1969 when a police raid of a gay bar in NYC turned into a days-long protest that launched the modern LGBT rights movement. Meanwhile, **DirecTV** is offering a free preview of Smithsonian Channel to all of subs from May 21 to May 27. -- **Science Channel** is premiering "Hurricane Man" on June 18 at 10pm. The eight-episode series follows *Josh Morgerman*, a veteran storm chaser as he dives into some of the most destructive hurricanes across the planet. It also tells the stories of people who are surviving the monster storms. -- **Comedy Central**'s latest scripted series "South Side" will premiere July 24 at 10:30pm. The comedy series follows two community college graduates following their entrepreneurial dreams in inner-city Chicago. -- **Oxygen**'s newest series, "License to Kill" will hit the net on June 23 at 7pm. The series, hosted by plastic surgeon *Dr. Terry Dubrow* of "Botched" fame, follows accounts of patients put into jeopardy by medical professionals intending harm.

On the Circuit: **SCTE-ISBE** is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented at **Cable-Tec Expo** this fall in New Orleans. Awards include Member of the Year, Excellence in Standards, Excellence in Learning and Development, International Engineering Professional, Innovators and Rising Leaders. Nominations are due July 1. -- **NATPE** is launching "Streaming Plus," a one-day event where streamers will gather in LA on July 30. Keynote sessions include *Julie McNamara*, evp, original content, **CBS All Access**; *Heather Moosnick*, svp, content partnerships, **Hulu**; *Amy Reinhard*, vp, content acquisitions, **Netflix**; *Ben Relles*, head of innovation, **YouTube Originals**; and *Sharon Rechter*, co-founder/pres, **First Media**.

Public Affairs: **Comcast NBCU** awarded \$87,500 in scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year to 32 NJ students as part of its annual Leaders and Achievers Scholarship program. Each student earned a one-time, \$2,500 scholarship for undergraduate education as a result of their community service, academic performance and leadership skills.

People: **Tubi** is expanding its advertising sales team, tapping *Peter Graseck* as vp of East Coast advertising sales. He comes over from **Viacom**, where he spent 12 years at various roles in integrated marketing, client strategy and direct market and general sales for **Comedy Central**, **Spike**, **CMT** and **TV Land**. -- **Paramount Network** tapped *Lauren Dolgen* as its new svp, unscripted development and production, effective June 3. She most recently served as the head of **Buzzfeed Studios**, and prior to that head of West Coast development for **Viceland**.

Obituary: The industry lost *David Auger*, who passed away on May 17. Auger had been CEO of **Continuum** since 2011, which is owned by the towns of Mooresville and Davidson, NC. Auger worked in the industry for 30 years, including at **Time Warner Cable**. Continuum's board appointed board member *Bob Guth* as interim CEO.