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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[New CAF II Funding Authorized](#)

The FCC said it has authorized \$240 million in Connect America CAF II funding for four more companies that won funding in the CAF II auction. Total CAF II funding authorized now exceeds \$1.4 billion—almost all the \$1.488 billion that was won in the auction.

[USF Budget and Funding Problems](#)

The percentage of end user phone bills that goes toward the Universal Service Fund has been climbing and there are serious questions about the sustainability of that funding mechanism, despite a relatively stable USF budget.

[Report on Flawed Broadband Data](#)

How bad is FCC broadband availability data? Researchers at BroadbandNow estimate that at least 20.7 million people considered to have broadband available to them can't get service. The total unserved population nationwide is at least 42 million – about twice the FCC's estimate, the researchers said.

[MF II Coverage Data to be Released](#)

The FCC Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force (Task Force) and other bureau and office staff wish to publicly release certain mobile broadband coverage data that had been submitted to the FCC as part of the challenge process of the now defunct Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II).

[CBRS Auction Procedures Previewed](#)

The FCC has released its draft procedures public notice for the auction of 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) licenses in Auction 105 starting June 24, 2020. The public notice details various proposed application and bidding procedures for Auction 105, which will offer up to seven Priority Access Licenses (PALs) on a county basis.

[Free Tool for Broadband Data](#)

Later this year a free tool will appear to help school IT organizations get internet speed and pricing information on K-12 broadband connectivity across the United States using publicly available data from the federal...



Market Watch

[Sprint/T-Mobile Merger Wins Court Approval](#)

[Median Broadband Usage to Top 250gb](#)

[4 Network Trends that are not 5G](#)

[Not Connected in Kansas](#)



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Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron

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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Sprint, Comcast Roll Out SHAKEN/STIR

Sprint and Comcast announced the two companies are now utilizing call authentication technology that helps further protect customers from unwanted robocalls between Sprint mobile customers and Comcast's Xfinity Voice landline phone customers. Secure Telephone Identity Revisited (STIR) and Signature-based Handling of Asserted Information Using toKENs (SHAKEN) is a protocol that authenticates calls between networks. The technology enables voice providers to "sign" and "verify" caller ID information, thus preventing bad actors from manipulating or "spoofing" caller ID information in an effort to deceive and defraud consumers.

U.S. Accuses Huawei of Stealing Secrets

U.S. prosecutors on Thursday accused Huawei of stealing trade secrets and helping Iran track protesters in its latest indictment against the Chinese company, escalating the U.S. battle with the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker.

Small Business Cybercrime Losses

Losses from business email compromise (BEC) attacks soared by hundreds of millions of dollars over the past year, to once again account for half of all cybercrime losses reported to the FBI. BEC scammers made nearly \$1.8 billion in 2019, over half the \$3.5 billion total, according to the FBI's 2019 Internet Crime Report. That's up from around \$1.3bn and a total of \$2.7bn in 2018. A recent evolution in BEC tactics has seen scammers impersonate regular employees rather than C-level execs.

5G in 2020 Gets Real

The last 12 months have given the world a taste of 5G; 2020 is when things are getting real, according to network company Ericsson. It predicts that, by the end of 2020, there will be somewhere around 100 million 5G subscribers, and from there, the technology will only scale up: by 2025, it predicts there will be no less than 2.6 billion subscriptions to 5G.

AT&T Streaming TV Service

AT&T TV, the streaming version of the telecom's premium full-bundled pay TV service and its long-term replacement for DirecTV satellite TV, is getting set for a national launch. When exactly remains unclear. Citing unnamed sources, news site Cord Cutter News pegged the official national launch date for AT&T TV as February 27, moved back a few weeks after the site earlier reported a February 11 national rollout.



IN FOCUS Annual CPNI Certifications Due March 2

The following announcement was posted by the FCC's [Enforcement Bureau](#):

Annual CPNI Certifications Due March 2, 2020. Telecommunications carriers and interconnected VOIP providers are reminded about their obligation, under 47 C.F.R. § 64.2009(e), to file annual Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certifications by March 2, 2020 (covering calendar year 2019). Certifications may be filed using the Commission's [Electronic Comment Filing System](#) in EB Docket No. 06-36, or through the [CPNI application](#).

A template for the certification is available [here](#).

Please note that the CPNI certification requires the attachment of a compliance statement, and may require additional information depending on whether your company (1) took any actions against data brokers during 2019, or (2) your company received any customer complaints during 2019 relating to the unauthorized release of CPNI.

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau has stated in past years that one of the common problems with annual CPNI certifications is with the statement explaining how the reporting company's operating procedures ensure compliance with CPNI rules. These statements are to include, at a minimum, the following:

- How the carrier implemented a system to establish the status of a customer's CPNI approval prior to use of CPNI.
- Training policies covering as to when employees are and are

not authorized to use CPNI. This includes an express disciplinary process

- Recordkeeping procedures related to sales and marketing campaigns that use CPNI and are undertaken by the carrier or its affiliates
- An explanation of the carriers supervisory review process of out-bound marketing campaigns.

As a reminder, "*Protection of Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) is a fundamental obligation under section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act). Consumers are understandably concerned about the security of the sensitive, personal data they provide to their service providers. In recognition of these concerns, the Commission has issued rules requiring carriers and interconnected VoIP providers to establish and maintain systems designed to ensure that they adequately protect their subscribers' CPNI. Those rules also require that all companies subject to the CPNI rules file an annual certification documenting their compliance with the rules, and documenting any complaints they have received as well as any actions taken against data brokers.*"



Alexicon at Work

Form 477, HUBB filings, and other late spring deadlines are the order of the day for Alexicon consultants. In addition, ReConnect program applications are due on March 16, and Alexicon is assisting clients in several states with other broadband data collection issues.

Meetings and Conventions

Doug Kitch, Rob Strait, Dion Nero, and Chris Barron will attend NTCA's RTIME in Phoenix, AZ on February 16-19.



Questions? Comments?
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