



- ▶ VOTERS: CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
- ▶ **RIP & REPLACE TO COST \$1.8 BILLION**
- ▶ CBRS AUCTION BRINGS IN \$4.5 BILLION
- ▶ **JESSICA ROSENWORCEL INTERVIEW**
- ▶ CONNECTED CARE PILOT PROGRAM
- ▶ **2.5 GHZ TRIBAL PRIORITY WINDOW CLOSES** ...1
- ▶ **CORD-CUTTING ACCELERATES**
- ▶ TN TELCO GETS \$9.8M RECONNECT AWARD
- ▶ **VERIZON COVID WFH LESSONS**
- ▶ CISCO TURNS ATTENTION TO RURAL BROADBAND ...1
- ▶ THE CASE FOR UNIVERSAL BROADBAND
- ▶ **AVOIP CONVERGENCE**
- ▶ NEW SECTION 230 REFORM BILL
- ▶ **DIGITAL PRIVACY IS UNDER ATTACK**
- ▶ HUGE RISE IN RANSOMWARE ATTACKS ...2

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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

Voters: Close the Digital Divide

A new poll by IIA and Morning Consult reflects this increased reliance on high-speed internet and finds strong support among American voters for using Congressional authority to improve broadband access. 90% of US voters said they would support using Congressional funds to expand internet access for those currently living in areas not serviced by a broadband provider and 88% support Congress providing financial assistance to those who cannot afford broadband.

Rip & Replace to Cost \$1.8 Billion

Rural service providers have told the government it would cost them about \$1.83 billion to replace network gear from Huawei and ZTE, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said in a report on Friday.

CBRS Auction Brings in \$4.5 billion

After 76 bidding rounds over the course of a month, [Auction 105](#) for 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) Priority Access Licenses (PALs) has ended.

Jessica Rosenworcel Interview

Jessica Rosenworcel won't talk about what everyone really wants her to talk about. She can't. But what she says about everything else speaks volumes to the question she refuses to answer.

Connected Care Pilot Program

The Federal Communications Commission today released a Public Notice with information and guidance for potential applications to the FCC Connected Care Pilot Program.

2.5 GHz Tribal Priority Window Closes

On September 2, 2020, the FCC closed its 2.5 GHz priority filing window for rural Tribes, the first ever priority spectrum filing window for Tribal entities. The window, aimed at closing the digital divide in Tribal areas, opened in February 2020 and received over 400 applications. 2.5 GHz spectrum historically had been divided between the Educational Broadband Service (EBS) for educational uses and Broadband Radio Service...



Market Watch

[Cord-Cutting Accelerates](#)

[TN Telco Gets \\$9.8m ReConnect Award](#)

[Verizon COVID WFH lessons](#)

[Cisco Turns Attention to Rural Broadband](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

AVoIP Convergence

Over the past few years, AV over IP (AVoIP) has come to dominate conversations of audio-visual signal transport. And despite forecasts that it would soon take over in terms of installations, the reality has proven slightly different. We reached out to experts to find out where they believe we are in the state of AVoIP convergence and what the future will bring.

New Section 230 Reform Bill

New legislation was introduced aiming at modifying legal protections for online platforms. The Online Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity Act would modify Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act by conditioning the protection on whether content decisions are "objectively reasonable," while also limiting the things platforms can act on. Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act...gives internet companies immunity from lawsuits for content posted on their sites by third parties and allows them to make "good faith" efforts to moderate content.

Digital Privacy is Under Attack

Intelligence services around the world should be kept in check by an international body with the power to make sure governments don't misuse personal data for surveillance purposes, said the Council of Europe's data protection committee chairs in a joint statement. Countries should agree at an international level on the extent to which the surveillance carried out by intelligence services can be authorized and under which conditions, recommended the committee. The agreement should come as a legal tool that could be enforced independently by a data protection body that is yet to be created.

Huge Rise in Ransomware Attacks

There's been a huge increase in the number of ransomware attacks over the course of 2020, with a seven-fold rise in campaigns compared with just last year alone, according to newly released data from cybersecurity researchers. Ransomware attacks have been on the rise and getting more dangerous in recent years...

The Case for Universal Broadband

The current context has made internet access in America a more urgent issue than ever. The problem is painfully obvious, and fixing it entails understanding how we got here, seeing what's at stake, and finally meeting the moment. There are areas in the United States where it is geographically difficult and expensive to get residents broadband. But getting the internet to everyone is not just about tech: It's even more a policy question, one tied up in politics. Success will mean a multi-layered effort



IN FOCUS

Draft **STIR/SHAKEN Order**

The FCC released a [draft Second Report and Order](#) to address STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication issues and further implementation of the TRACED Act. This item, plus several others, will be taken up at the FCC's [September 30 open meeting](#).

The actions to be taken in the draft order stem mainly from the March [Report and Order and FNPRM](#) that addressed, for the most part, illegal caller ID spoofing and how STIR/SHAKEN attempts to solve the related problems. However, STIR/SHAKEN only works on IP-based networks, which causes problems not only for TDM-based networks but also for operators without connections to IP-based intermediate providers. In recognition of this, the TRACED Act allows for extensions for certain classes of carriers, which is an important part of what the FCC will address in the newest order.

The TRACED Act requires operators of TDM-based networks to either upgrade to IP-based technology, or be in the process of developing a non-IP authentication solution. To this end, the draft order contains a provision that will let TDM network operators "provide us [FCC], upon request, with documented proof that it is participating, either on its own or through a representative, as a member of a working group, industry standards group, or consortium that is working to develop a non-IP solution, or actively testing such a solution." This includes membership in a trade association that is addressing the non-IP caller ID authentication problems and solutions.

Also addressed in the draft order is the extension for implementing caller ID authentication for certain classes of providers. **For small rural providers (those with less than 100,000 subscribers) there**

will be a two-year extension (to June 30, 2023). In the interim, these providers are to implement a robocall mitigation program on the non-STIR/SHAKEN portions of their networks:

- Voice providers are to implement an appropriate robocall mitigation program to prevent unlawful robocalls from originating on their networks.
- Voice providers subject to an extension will be required to document and publicly certify how they are complying with these requirements.
- A robocall mitigation program is sufficient if it includes detailed practices that can reasonably be expected to significantly reduce the origination of illegal robocalls.
- Voice providers receiving an extension will have "to commit to cooperating with the Commission, law enforcement, and the industry traceback consortium in investigating and stopping any illegal robocallers that it learns are using its service to originate calls."

The FCC will also prohibit voice service providers from adding any line item charges to consumer bills designed to recover caller ID authentication technology costs. Finally, intermediate providers will be required to implement STIR/SHAKEN on the IP portions of their networks by June 30, 2021.

Reminders

- ⇒ **988 Suicide Prevention Hotline.** Mandatory 10-digit dialing transition has started for certain area codes containing 988 NXXs. See the 8/19/20 Special Bulletin and 8/20/20 email distribution of the NANPA transition schedule.
- ⇒ Providers that block robocalls are required to establish a **single point of contact** for resolving unintended or inadvertent blocking.
- ⇒ For ETCs designated by the FCC, annual [54.314](#) certifications are due to the FCC on October 1



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