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Alexicon *insider*

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[Biden Betting Big on Small Networks](#)

Like hundreds of school districts across the country, Edgecombe County Public Schools in North Carolina had to move their coursework online to keep their students safe during the coronavirus pandemic. Worksheets became websites and school assemblies became Zoom conferences with outside speakers.

[Government Broadband Funding List](#)

The government has made a lot of funding available for broadband since the COVID-19 pandemic made the technology more important than ever — and more government broadband funding is expected. Several experts discussed what to expect in this area on a webinar yesterday organized by the Fiber Broadband Association.

[Bill Targets Rural Rights-of-Way](#)

A bipartisan bill has been introduced to speed broadband deployments by cutting right-of-way "red tape" in rural communities.

[FCC Takes Action Against Robocalls](#)

The FCC this week took three actions aimed at reducing the number of spam robocalls and spoofed calls that inconvenience, annoy and in some cases even defraud Americans. The first action is that the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a public notice and wrote to major phone companies and third party developers of call blocking tools to obtain updated information about those tools.

[Updated Form 477 Data Published](#)

The FCC has released FCC Form 477 fixed and mobile broadband data collected as of June 30, 2020. The OEA and Bureaus collected this data through the FCC Form 477. Fixed deployment data are available for download [here](#) and mobile deployment data are available [here](#). A publicly accessible National Broadband Map is available [here](#).



Market Watch

[Triple Play Has Lost Its Luster](#)

[77% Can Access Low-Cost Broadband](#)

[LEO Satellite Forecast—5m Subs by 2026](#)

[AT&T Will Pump \\$2b to Close Digital Divide](#)



Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron
cbarron@alexicon.net

Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Multi-Factor Authentication: Use It

The most common way cyber-criminal hackers break into enterprise networks is by stealing or guessing usernames and passwords. The attacks, whether the goal is stealing information, executing a ransomware attack or any other means of cybercrime represent a major risk to organisations of all kinds – but there's one thing that information security teams can do to dramatically help protect the network and its users from cyber criminals.

Verizon—Hyper Precise Location Service

Wednesday, Verizon announced that its Hyper Precise Location service—real-time kinematics service—will be available in more than 100 major U.S. markets this week. Verizon said it's HPL can outperform today's GPS technology and provides up to centimeter-level accuracy, compared with three to nine meters with Global Positioning Systems alone. It can be applied to HD-mapping, robotics, construction, manufacturing and smart agriculture.

Amazon's Kuiper Satellite Broadband

SpaceX's Starlink service tends to get much of the attention in the next generation low earth orbit (LEO) satellite broadband movement. But not too far behind Starlink is Amazon Kuiper broadband service. Amazon Kuiper broadband service has many of the same aspirations of Starlink. Blanket the Earth with lower orbiting satellites than traditional satellite broadband players and offer a competitive broadband service targeting unserved and underserved markets.

How Fixable is the Unsafe Internet?

The larger the Internet superhighway of information grows; the more users get run over by privacy abuses and stolen data. If only we could rebuild the Internet's infrastructure to make data's journey safer and more secure is a common cry of IT and cybersecurity experts.

A recent study from Consumer Reports' Digital Lab reveals that 96 percent of Americans agree that more should be done to protect consumer privacy.

Remote Workers & Email Fatigue

Over one-third of employees say email and message overload may lead them to quit their jobs, according to a new report. Companies are planning whether to reopen their offices for a mass return to in-office working, encourage their employees to stay remote or introduce a hybrid work model once the pandemic ends. Most every organization has been thrust into the future of work. What will determine failure or success in this brave new world?

IN FOCUS

Improving 911 Reliability



The FCC acted last week at its open meeting to improve 911 reliability. In a [Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), the FCC “proposed rules to promote public safety by ensuring that 911 call centers and the public receive timely and useful notifications of network disruptions that affect 911 service. These notifications will help 911 call centers maintain emergency services and inform the public when to use alternatives to call 911.”

According to the FCC, during 2019 over 200 million 911 calls were placed, with 70% of those coming from wireless phones. The emergency calls are routed to one of the approximately 5,700 PSAPs nationwide that are susceptible to outages that can be caused in the underlying network.

This new round of rulemaking is driven by some high-profile 911 system outages, particularly one that took place in 2014 that affected “[m]ore than 6,000 emergency calls went unanswered because of a multistate system outage that affected more than 11 million people across seven states—Washington, North Carolina, South Carolina, Minnesota, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania” according to Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s [statement](#). Also according to the FCC Chair, a report investigating the 2014 outage concluded that it could have been avoided.

Included in the NPRM are proposed rules to improve PSAP outage notifications and customer notification of 911 outages, and update the FCC’s 911 network reliability framework.

Currently, the FCC tracks 911 outages via three mechanisms—911

call transmission requirements, network outage reporting, and 911 reliability and certification requirements. The current NPRM looks to harmonize this reporting in hopes of avoiding widespread outages, such as what happened to T-Mobile in 2014 (affected 50m subscribers) and AT&T in 2017 (affected 135m subscribers).

The FCC proposes to “require that originating service providers and covered 911 service providers notify PSAPs about all such outages within the same timeframe, by the same means, and with the same frequency.” The FCC specifically proposes “to require originating service providers to notify potentially affected 911 special facilities of an outage within the same time frame required for covered 911 service providers.”

Under these proposed rules, originating providers “would be under greater time pressure to notify PSAPs; would need to provide contact information so that the PSAP can reach them for follow up; would need to provide notification by two means (e.g., phone call and e-mail) instead of one; and would need to provide follow-up notification.”

The comment cycle has yet to be established—comments will be due 30 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register.

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*, 8/20/20 email distribution of the NANPA transition schedule, and 11/18/20 & 1/28/21 email distributions of NANPA’s latest guidance. Permissive 10-digit dialing in the affected area codes began on April 24.
- ⇒ **Robocall Mitigation Program.** All providers under the automatic 2-year STIR/SHAKEN implementation extension must adopt a robocall mitigation program and certify certain information to the [online database](#) by 6/30/21.



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cbarron@alexicon.net