

February 15, 2022

- ▶ FCC ASKED TO EXPAND CONTRIB. BASE
- ▶ **ACP SIGNUPS HIT 10M**
- ▶ BEHIND THE LARGEST ECF LIBRARY AWARD
- ▶ **FCC DISCRIMINATION TASK FORCE**
- ▶ MORE RIP AND REPLACE FUNDS NEEDED
- ▶ **FCC INCREASES COMPETITION IN MTEs** ...1
- ▶ **FIBER COULD FORCE CABLE PRICING OVERHAUL**
- ▶ CLOSING DIGITAL DIVIDE TAKES MORE THAN CASH
- ▶ **WIRED BROADBAND BOOSTS RURAL EMPLOYMENT**
- ▶ DOBSON FIBER GAINS INVESTMENT ...1
- ▶ TELEHEALTH USE DROPPED IN 2021
- ▶ **FIBER CUT IN SPACE?**
- ▶ SQUIRRELWAFFLE ATTACKS MICROSOFT
- ▶ **SECURITY, PRIVACY AND SMART CITIES**
- ▶ REMOTE WORK HEIGHTENS CONCERNS ...2

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INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[FCC Asked to Expand Contributions Base](#)

Several broadband provider associations, along with other entities numbering 332 in total, are taking another crack at persuading the FCC to expand the contribution base for the Universal Service Fund (USF) program to include broadband revenues.

[ACP Signups Hit 10M](#)

Vice President Kamala Harris called on all U.S. internet service providers to back efforts to provide more affordable broadband options for consumers, as the FCC announced more than 10 million people have signed up for its Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

[Behind the Largest ECF Library Award](#)

The largest ECF library award, \$30 million, went to Harris County Public Library in Harris County, Texas. T-Mobile and Google are working with the library to provide county residents with 15,000 Chromebooks and 40,000 T-Mobile 5G MiFi hotspots with unlimited data on the carrier's 5G network.

[FCC Discrimination Task Force](#)

The FCC prepared to crack down on digital discrimination, as Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announced the formation of a new task force charged with developing policies which promote equal access to broadband.

[More Rip and Replace Funds Needed](#)

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel has notified Congress that additional monies are needed to fully fund the participants of the Secure and Trusted Communications Reimbursement Program.

[FCC Increases Competition in MTEs](#)

The FCC has adopted rules prohibiting communications service providers from entering into certain revenue-sharing agreements with multiple tenant environment (MTEs) owners. The Commission will also require providers to disclose to customers any existing exclusive marketing arrangements with MTE owners.



Market Watch

- [Fiber Could Force Cable Pricing Overhaul](#)
- [Closing Digital Divide Takes More Than Cash](#)
- [Wired Broadband Boosts Rural Employment](#)
- [Dobson Fiber Gains Investment](#)



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Questions? Comments?
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Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Fiber Cut in Space?

In what one might call a 'fiber cut' in space analogy, satellite broadband provider Starlink lost 40 of 49 satellites it recently launched to a geomagnetic storm. The satellites were launched on February 3rd from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. According to a SpaceX report, the 40 satellites are a total loss and will fall back to Earth, burning up upon reentry.

Squirrelwaffle Attacks Microsoft Servers

The combination of Squirrelwaffle, ProxyLogon, and ProxyShell against Microsoft Exchange Servers is being used to conduct financial fraud through email hijacking. On Tuesday, researchers from Sophos revealed a recent incident in which a Microsoft Exchange Server, which had not been patched to protect it against a set of critical vulnerabilities disclosed last year, was targeted to hijack email threads and spread malspam. Microsoft issued emergency patches on March 2, 2021, to resolve zero-day vulnerabilities exploitable to hijack servers.

Security, Privacy and Smart Cities

As networks get speedier and devices become capable of more complex processing, municipalities have seen a new application for technology: smart cities, in which significant portions of the infrastructure are networked, automated or both. Sensors, artificial intelligence, cameras and more can interconnect in a vast web that — in theory — eases the workload for humans, takes the guesswork out of planning and makes communities safer. With new opportunities come new threats, though. Security holes and the potential for privacy violations have some people convinced that caution is the smartest thing going.

Remote Work Heightens Concerns

Remote workers have higher anxiety levels about security and privacy than other types of employees, according to an international study released Tuesday by a cybersecurity software maker.

Telehealth Use Dropped in 2021

Though telehealth is still on the rise, new data from the Peterson- KFF Health System Tracker revealed how the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic might affect outpatient visit preferences. As the COVID-19 pandemic became more prominent in mid-2020, the government increased access to telehealth, removing regulatory barriers and reforming payment policies. The motive behind this choice was to limit exposure to the deadly disease and maintain pandemic safety protocols.

IN FOCUS

FCC Proposes Broadband Labels

The FCC released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) at the end of January to address a requirement in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to display broadband consumer labels. The IIJA specifically mentions the labels issued in a [2016 Public Notice](#), along with any changes that may be necessary to update the information on the 6 year old labels.

The original 2016 labels were eventually eliminated in subsequent FCC action, but a pared-down [transparency rule](#) was ultimately adopted and is still in place. With the passage of the IIJA, providers will now be required, at some point in the near future, to display broadband consumer labels at the point of sale.

The NPRM contains the 2016 labels, one each for fixed and mobile broadband. The fixed broadband labels contain information on pricing, monthly data allowance, overage charges, equipment fees, other monthly fees, one-time fees, early termination fees, performance, and network management. The FCC asks about adding other information to the labels, including introductory rates, service levels and bundles, the Affordable Connectivity Program, and direct notification of term changes. Appendices A and B contain the labels for fixed and mobile service.

Options for display include the ISP website where a customer browses for service options, a hard copy at retail locations, and inclusion in bills or other communications about changes in service.

The proposed implementation date is 6 months after the final, OMB-approved rules are published in the Federal Register. The FCC does

ask about an implementation delay for small providers to allow more time to comply with the labels' requirements.

Comments are due March 9, and replies are due March 24.

Broadband Facts	
Fixed broadband consumer disclosure	
Choose Your Service Data Plan for	
Monthly charge for month-to-month plan	
Monthly charge for 2 year contract plan	
Click here for other pricing options including promotions and options bundled with other services, like cable television and wireless services.	
Other Charges and Terms	
Data included with monthly charge	
Charges for additional data usage	
Optional modem or gateway lease – Customers may use their own modem or gateway; click here for our policy	
Other monthly fees	
One-time fees	
Government Taxes and Other Government-Related Fees May Apply! Varies by location	
Other services on network	
Performance - Individual experience may vary	
Typical speed downstream	
Typical speed upstream	
Typical latency	
Typical packet loss	
Network Management	
Application-specific network management practices?	
Subscriber-triggered network management practices?	
More details on network management	
Privacy	See our privacy policy
Complaints or Inquiries	To contact us: online (123)456-7890; To submit complaints to the FCC: online (888)225-5322
Learn more about the terms used on this form and other relevant information at the FCC's website.	

Reminders

- * **Broadband Performance Pre-Testing** began 1Q22 for ACAM II, CAF BLS, and CAF II auction support recipients. The first report is due to USAC on April 7, 2022.
- * The **ACP** began on 12/31/21. The transition from the EBB program to the ACP ends on 3/1/22. Please see the 11/22/21, 11/29/21, 12/9/21, and 12/30/21 updates for more information
- * Voice service providers are prohibited from accepting calls from providers not appearing in the [Robocall Mitigation Database](#)



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