



# Government Affairs e-Update



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## This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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## This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

**FCC Begins Inquiry Regarding Broadband Over Power Line.** Issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking public comment on using existing electrical power lines to provide Internet and broadband services to homes and offices.

Press Release: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A1.pdf),

Chairman Powell: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A2.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A2.pdf);

Cmmr. Abernathy: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A3.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A3.pdf);

Cmmr. Copps: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A4.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A4.pdf);

Cmmr. Martin: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A5.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A5.pdf);

Cmmr. Adelstein: [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A6.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233537A6.pdf).

**Accounting Board Backs Rules Change On Stock Options** - Accounting-Standards Panel Unanimously Agrees That Firms Should Treat the Grants as Expenses - The private board that writes U.S. accounting rules unanimously agreed yesterday that companies should be required to treat grants of stock options to executives and employees as expenses, a key show of support for a measure strenuously opposed by high-tech industries and some members of Congress. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17602-2003Apr22.html>

**FCC Votes To Revamp E-Rate Program** - The U.S. Federal Communications Commission said that it has set new rules for an embattled federal fund intended to bring Internet connections to the nation's schools and libraries. The rules aim to shield the so-called e-rate fund from fraud and abuse, the FCC wrote in a release published on its Web site. Among other things, new eligibility rules bar individuals, for three years or longer, from participating in the program if convicted of a criminal offense or found civilly liable for misconduct in relation to the program. Also, the FCC revised the e-rate rules to include not only Internet connections, but also voicemail and wireless services--a step the agency said will ease administrative costs. In addition, the FCC said it will develop an online list of approved equipment to facilitate funding requests. <http://msnbc-cnet.com.com/2100-1028-998120.html>

FCC Press Release - [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-233530A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-233530A1.pdf)

**Regulators Expand Airwaves For Emergency Communication** - Federal regulators doubled the airwaves available for emergency and public safety workers, giving a boost to police seeking better crisis communications and firefighters wanting to send video from inside burning buildings. The Federal Communications Commission voted 5-0 to allow local and federal safety agencies to sign up for a chunk of airwaves set aside last year for emergency and homeland security efforts. [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2003-04-24-airwaves\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2003-04-24-airwaves_x.htm)

**U.S. Ushers In E-Government** - The U.S. government's new e-government plan officially launched on Thursday, but it could face a \$40 million budget shortfall that may slow down development. The e-government project, which has been ramping up for months, is designed to use the Internet and computer systems to deliver information to agency workers and the general public more efficiently. On Thursday, the E-Government Act of 2002 went into effect, creating an Office of Information within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to focus on the plan. <http://msnbc-cnet.com.com/2100-1028-997496.html>

E-Government Act of 2002 - <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:H.R.2458>:



**U.S. Backs Record Labels In Pursuit Of Music Sharer** - The Bush administration has sided with the recording industry in its court battle to force Internet providers to disclose the identities of subscribers who may be illegally trading materials online. A Justice Department brief supports the claim by the Recording Industry Association of America that it should be able to force Verizon Communications under the digital copyright law to identify a subscriber suspected of providing more than 600 songs from well-known artists for other Internet users to download. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/21/technology/21MUSI.html> (Free registration required)

**White House Security Adviser Resigns** - White House cybersecurity adviser Howard Schmidt has resigned his post, becoming the second top government adviser to leave this year. Schmidt was nominated as vice chairman of the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board in December 2001, and served as deputy to former White House cybersecurity czar Richard Clarke. Clarke left his post in February. A White House official confirmed Schmidt's resignation, saying his departure would be effective at the end of the month. The official said Schmidt had left to return to the private sector. Before coming to the White House, Schmidt was chief security strategist at Microsoft. <http://msnbc-cnet.com.com/2100-1009-997840.html>

**Security Agency Selects Privacy Watchdog** - A former privacy official for a controversial Internet advertising firm was named yesterday as chief privacy officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the government's most significant position at the center of the debate over how to balance individual privacy with expanded anti-terrorism efforts. Nuala O'Connor Kelly, a 34-year-old lawyer, will review whether the department's collection and use of personal information about U.S. citizens is legal and appropriate. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A41854-2003Apr16.html>

**New Army CIO** - President Bush has nominated Army Maj. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle for promotion to lieutenant general and assignment as the Army's CIO. [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21764-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21764-1.html)

**Partnership To Fight Cyberterrorism** - Instead of pursuing strict regulations to guard against cyberterrorism, the federal government and technology industry have decided to jointly develop voluntary standards. Critics say that won't properly protect consumers from online pranksters, hackers and identity thieves. Members of the CEO Cyber Security Task Force, formed last month after the Palo Alto, Calif.-based trade group TechNet approached federal officials, say their standards would be akin to a "Good Housekeeping seal of approval" for computer security. [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=528&ncid=528&e=6&u=/ap/20030416/ap\\_on\\_hi\\_te/cyberterrorism](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=528&ncid=528&e=6&u=/ap/20030416/ap_on_hi_te/cyberterrorism)

**Senior White House Officials To Field Questions Online** - The White House announced what it called a "nugget" of cyber-news: senior administration officials will begin a series of Web chats. These "online discussions," titled "Ask the White House," will allow visitors to the official website, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), to quiz top Bush aides without the media serving as middleman. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30684-2003Apr15.html>

This Week@EMEA

**Wi-Fi Could Let Iraq Skip Steps In Leap To Broadband** - When Iraq is rebuilt, an emerging wireless Internet technology may let it avoid the broadband woes that have plagued the USA for years. Wi-Fi, a young technology backed by the likes of Intel and Microsoft, sends Web pages and phone calls via radio waves. That avoids the expense of cables, which has partly held up the spread of broadband, or high-speed Internet, service in the USA. [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2003-04-16-wifi\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2003-04-16-wifi_x.htm)

**Women Among First Computer Specialists Trained In Afghanistan** - Afghanistan is now producing internationally certified information technology specialists, one third of them women so far. Six women and 11 men graduated this month from the University of Kabul's new Cisco Networking Academy, earning the first industry-standard certification for computer networking ever offered in the country. The event was a milestone for Afghan women, shut out of public life by the former Taliban regime and its radical interpretation of Islamic law. <http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2003/april/17apr03/index.html>

**End To Deutsche Telekom Local Line Monopoly, Operator Signs With 19 Alternate Carriers** - Reuters is reporting that the German incumbent telco has reached agreements with 19 alternate carriers that want to offer rival local telephony services over the telco's infrastructure, as per the demands of German legislation ending Deutsche Telekom's monopoly of local telephony in the country. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16012>

**E-Government Projects High On Agenda In Western Europe, Survey** - E-government-related IT spending by UK, French, German, and Italian public-sector administrations is expected to peak in 2004 and grow significantly by the end of 2006, focusing on the deployment of IT solutions in the deployment of electronic service delivery. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=15868>



**Telecoms Minister Seeks 3G Licensing In Russia This Year** - The Russian government has yet to decide how many licences will be issued and whether they will be issued on a regional or national basis. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16025>

**Serbia & Montenegro - New Telecommunications Law Debated** - New Serbian telecommunications legislation will set up an independent regulatory body, the Telecommunications Agency, which will be in charge of the sector. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16049>

**Digital Community Centres Hope To Bridge The Digital Divide In Dublin** - Last week saw the launch of the first Digital Community Centre in a flat complex in Dublin's inner city. This is an important first step towards bridging the digital divide between underprivileged areas of the inner city and more affluent areas. A further eight Digital Community Centres will be set up in similar residential complexes in the coming months. The objective of the programme is to help selected inner city communities better participate in the information society. This is to be achieved through skill acquisition in IT and improved access to information and communication. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=15986>

**'E-Stonia' Blazes Internet Trail With Tech Transformation** - A crumpled piece of paper taped on the locked door of a bank branch at 125 Parnu Street provides the evidence: Closed. It's a common sight along this capital's streets. But it's not a sign of financial calamity. Banking is actually booming in this former Soviet republic - via Internet. The number of Estonians who bank online soared from zero in 1997 to 700,000 this year. That's half the country's 1.4 million people. <http://www.nandotimes.com/technology/story/861516p-6022778c.html>

**ADSL Priced Out Of Reach For Most Greeks** - The long-awaited introduction of an ADSL internet connection to Greece from telco OTE will have connection, subscription and service charges that are beyond the means of most Greeks. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=15879>

**Regulator Cuts Telecom Italia's Wholesale Broadband Prices** - The Italian telecoms regulator has stated that the price of Telecom Italia's 256Kbps asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) offering would be cut by 18.7 per cent, whilst its 540Kbps ADSL offering would be slashed by 10.2 per cent and its 1280Kbps ADSL offering by 19 per cent. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=15955>

**7,500 Km Broadband Network For The Irish Midlands** - Nationally, towns from County Donegal to Cork will be connected to the backbone broadband running through the country, to be known as the Metropolitan Area Networks. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16040>

**Poland - Centertel Launches Wi-Fi Network** - Centertel is the first operator to launch a wi-fi hot-spot in the country, although both PTK and Polkomtel are also planning to launch soon. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16051>

**Oftel Reopens Investigation Of BT Openworld Broadband Pricing** - Following criticism from the Competition Appeal Tribunal, UK telco regulator Oftel has decided to reopen its investigation of allegations that BT Openworld is pricing its broadband product in a predatory fashion. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=15971>

**Oftel Publishes Leased Lines And Mobile Market Review Documents** - Market reviews for the leased lines and calls from mobile phones markets have been published by Oftel as part of the work to implement the new EC Directives on electronic communications networks. <http://www.gnn.gov.uk/gnn/national.nsf/Daily+News/FAD12DE4463BD7FC80256D050049E953?opendocument>

**United Kingdom - New Survey Reveals State Of Local Egovernment** - Research commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which surveyed every English local authority, claims to have found widespread evidence that e-government is having a positive impact on access to council information and services, increasing the take-up of local services and encouraging flexible working. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16044>

**ULL Gaining Momentum In France** - L'Internet à haut débit sur la ligne de cuivre (ADSL) fait décoller le dégroupage. Le feu vert donné dès 2001 aux concurrents de France Télécom de s'installer dans les centraux de l'opérateur public pour proposer en direct des offres de téléphone ou Internet à haut débit c'est le dégroupage commence à porter ses fruits. Après avoir stagné pendant plus d'une année, le nombre de lignes prend l'ascenseur depuis Noël. Selon l'observatoire que vient de publier l'ART (Autorité de régulation des télécoms), 18 457 lignes avaient été dégroupées au 1er avril, contre 9 027 au 1er février, et 2 700 seulement à Noël. Sur ce total, 1 610 lignes à peine concernent aussi le téléphone. <http://www.liberation.fr/page.php?Article=105543>





the gap probably still exists among students who are not headed for college. Among those interviewed about their computer and Internet use were 100 African-American students and another 100 students of color from various ethnic backgrounds. The students who were polled had earned scores of at least 800 on the SAT. <http://chronicle.com/free/2003/04/2003042201t.htm>

**NC City Sets Up Wireless To Attract Professionals** - After spending millions of dollars to develop the downtown commercial area of Winston-Salem, officials in the North Carolina city are setting up free wireless service to serve as a technology hook to attract young professionals and help the area thrive. The new Wi-Fi system, which uses the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 802.11b wireless local-area network protocol, should be operating within the next three months. It uses several Cisco Systems Inc. Aironet 350 wireless base stations hooked into an existing fiber-optic network to provide wireless access along the city's Fourth Street downtown hub. <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0421/web-winston-04-21-03.asp>

#### Other Tech Stories Of The Week

**Beyond Wi-Fi – The Next Five Big Things** - <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.05/unwired/futurewifi.html>

**Can Wi-Fi Take Us To The Last Mile?** – OPINION - New FCC rules make it harder for DSL upstarts to compete with the Baby Bells. But the wireless revolution might keep the big guys honest. <http://www.business2.com/articles/mag/0,1640,47997,00.html>

**A New Wave Of Wireless** - It's Saturday afternoon, and Art Slater sits at his perch in the bay window of the Cyberstop Cafe. The thin card he slides into the side of his laptop detects a wireless signal, an icon pops up on the bottom of the screen, and Slater clicks on it to connect to the signal coming from the Dupont Circle cafe's back offices 20 feet away. With that, he's on the Internet, with a connection faster than anything at home. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A54030-2003Apr18.html>

**More Employees Do Work From Home Computers** - For six years, Nancy Roche has successfully balanced family life with a part-time job. The claims processor for Connecticut Medical Claims Management Inc. credits her accomplishments to telecommuting. Roche, who has two young children, works at least 10 hours a week from home and another 10 to 15 hours in the company's office in Guilford. [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=7621401&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept\\_id=7546&rfti=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=7621401&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=7546&rfti=6)

**After A Long Climb, Cyberchat On Everest**- Tsering Gyaltzen was devastated when a partner advised him over a month ago to give up on his dream of building a cybercafe this year at Mount Everest's base camp in Nepal because the bureaucracy was even more daunting than the technology. But while Mr. Gyaltzen was taken aback, he was not deterred. On Monday, with the climbing season under way, he and his team finished building a cybercafe at 17,500 feet. "I feel great," he wrote in one of the first e-mail messages sent from the cafe. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/17/technology/circuits/17ever.html> (Free registration required)

**Intel Loses Longtime Exec Vadasz** - Les Vadasz, employee No. 3 at Intel and head of the chipmaker's venture capital arm, is retiring as of June 1. Vadasz, 66, led the Intel design teams that helped develop the first Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) chip as well other innovations including Intel's first general purpose microprocessor. He also served as director of engineering and general manager of Intel's microcomputer component division. In his most recent assignment, Vadasz served as president of Intel Capital, the investment unit he helped establish in 1991. John Miner, who has been general manager of Intel Capital since last year, will take over Vadasz's responsibilities as head of the investment arm. <http://msnbc-cnet.com.com/2100-1014-997346.html>

**Nasdaq Selects New Ceo** - Nasdaq said Robert Greifeld, an executive at SunGard Data Systems Inc., will become president and chief executive and H. Furlong Baldwin, a Nasdaq board member and retired Maryland banker, will become chairman. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A34184-2003Apr15.html>

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