



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Bush Signs Tax Cut, Dismissing All Criticism - President Bush signed into law the third tax cut in three years, dismissing criticism of the legislation's cost, fairness and effectiveness, while casting the measure as "essential action to strengthen the American economy." Despite widespread disagreement among economists about the bill's potency as economic medicine in the short run and its implications for the national debt in the long run, Mr. Bush hailed the legislation as a job-creating measure that would also put much-needed cash in the hands of working people. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/29/politics/29TAX.html>

Government Shopping For New Tech Contracts - Norman Lorentz, the United States' chief technology officer, came to Santa Clara, CA to make the case that government contracts are worth the effort. He is seeking suitors for projects ranging from high-tech defense systems to e-government initiatives worth \$59 billion in the next year alone. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/news/local/5968315.htm>

Tech Keeps Battling Export Controls - Silicon Valley high-tech executives are vowing to continue their fight to ease Cold War-era restrictions on the export of high-speed computers in the wake of a disappointing defeat on Capitol Hill. Leading computer and semiconductor manufacturers -- including Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Apple Computer -- have been trying for four years to revise federal guidelines that require companies to obtain licenses to sell high-powered computers to China and other potential foes abroad. Legislation giving President Bush power to revise the guidelines was defeated 217-207 in the House of Representatives on Thursday. Opponents raised the specter of Osama bin Laden and other foes acquiring U.S. supercomputers to develop nuclear weapons. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/news/local/5959933.htm>

More U.S. Airwaves Sought - A division of Northrop Grumman Corp. said that it is petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to free up more airwaves so that the Department of Homeland Security and public-safety agencies can set up advanced wireless communications systems. Northrop Grumman's information technology division, based in Herndon, last month asked the FCC to consider reallocating 10 megahertz of spectrum in the 700-megahertz frequency range for public-safety use, so that those airwaves can be developed for a more advanced network to handle high-speed Internet, video and voice calls simultaneously. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46287-2003May27.html>

GAO Report - Spectrum Management in Defense Acquisitions. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-617R> (Adobe file)

FCC's Office Of Strategic Planning And Policy Analysis And Office Of Engineering And Technology Release

Comprehensive White Paper On Unlicensed Spectrum - Study Concludes Despite Downturn in Telecom Sector Unlicensed Spectrum Devices Represent Important and Growing Market, Stimulating Need for Further Regulatory Flexibility. http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-234738A1.pdf (Adobe document)

U.S. Government To Get Cybersecurity Chief - The Bush administration plans to appoint a new cybersecurity chief for the government inside the Homeland Security Department, replacing a position once held by a special adviser to the president. Industry leaders worry the new post won't be powerful enough. The move reflects an effort to appease frustrated technology executives over what they consider a lack of White House attention to hackers, cyberterror and other Internet threats. Officials have outlined their intentions privately in recent weeks to lawmakers, technology executives and lobbyists.



http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=528&ncid=528&e=7&u=/ap/20030525/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/cybersecurity_chief

Commerce, Homeland Security Ink Cooperation Pact - The Homeland Security and Commerce departments have signed a memorandum of understanding to improve how some of their offices will work together on technology issues. The agreement signed yesterday by HSD's undersecretary for science and technology, Charles E. McQueary, and Commerce's undersecretary for science and technology, Phillip J. Bond, establishes a relationship between the homeland department's Science and Technology Directorate and Commerce's Technology Administration, which operates the National Institute of Standards and Technology. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/22205-1.html

This Week@EMEA

Commission Welcomes The Strong Reaffirmation Of Support For Ehealth By 33 Health And Telecommunications

Ministers - Costas Stefanis, Greek Minister for Health, issued a ministerial declaration on behalf of the Presidency, and agreed by the 33 EU, EEA and Acceding Countries Ministers attending a high-level conference on eHealth in Brussels. Having seen for themselves the best eHealth practices already implemented in Europe and the benefits these have brought in terms of cost savings, improved quality and access to care, Ministers expressed their renewed commitment to developing national and regional eHealth implementation plans, and to exploring the possibilities for co-ordinating these at European level.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/741/0|RAPID&lg=EN

eEurope Awards For eHealth Announced -

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/736/0|RAPID&lg=EN

Commission Fines Deutsche Telekom - A statement from the Commission has said that Deutsche Telekom (DT) was charging new entrants to the German market higher fees for access to the so-called local loop than what DT subscribers were paying for fixed-line subscriptions. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16475>

EU Moves Against Illegal And Harmful Content Online - As part of Europe's determined effort to tackle illegal and harmful content on the Internet and new delivery platforms such as mobile phones, a two year extension to the Safer Internet Action Plan has been adopted by the European Parliament and Council upon the proposal of the European Commission.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/774/0|RAPID&lg=EN

European Broadband Uptake To Reach 48 Per Cent By 2008 - The bulk of broadband households will be in the largest economies: 12.2m will be in Germany; 6.6m in France; and 8m in the UK. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16486>

http://cyberatlas.internet.com/markets/broadband/article/0,,10099_2211141,00.html

New Telecoms Law Planned In Hungary - Most of the law is to come into effect in 2004, to coincide with Hungary's accession to the European Union (EU), although the cut in termination fees is due to come into force later in 2003.

<http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16426>

200 UK Pubs Offer Wi-Fi Access - The Cloud is offering wireless high-speed internet access at 200 pubs across the UK, and hopes to have such access available at 3000 pubs by the end of the year. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16487>

Blogs Opening Iranian Society? - A little more than two years ago, Hossein Derakhshan started blogging. Hundreds of other people probably launched their own blogs on that same December day, but few can claim they may have sparked a revolution. Soon after Derakhshan's blog went live, he was flooded with requests from Iranians wanting to know how he managed to blog in Farsi, the Persian language spoken by Iranians. Most of the free blog-hosting services only support the ASCII Roman character set, which doesn't work for languages that use other scripts, like Farsi, Arabic, Cyrillic and Asian languages, among others. <http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,58976,00.html>

In Baghdad, Rebuilding The Net - Amr Bakr is an Internet addict. These days, the computer repairman finds himself in need of a fix. His mornings used to consist of sipping coffee while he checked his five e-mail accounts and read news online from the BBC and al-Jazeera. Since American missiles demolished antennas and transmitters atop the Iraq Ministry of Information building early last month, Bakr and the rest of Iraq have been cut off. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/world/2003-05-23-baghdad-online_x.htm



This Week@Asia/Pacific

India Leader Advocates Open Source - The president of India added to a growing foreign-relations headache for Microsoft with a speech in which he advocated broader adoption of open-source software. In a speech during dedication ceremonies Wednesday for the country's new International Institute of Information Technology in the university city of Pune, President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam recounted a conversation earlier this year with Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates. "We were discussing the future challenges in information technology, including the issues related to software security," Kalam said, according to a transcript of the speech. "I made a point that we look for open-source codes so that we can easily introduce the users built security algorithms. Our discussions became difficult, since our views were different." http://msnbc-cnet.com.com/2100-1016_3-1011255.html

Delhi Children Make Play Of The Net - In the slums of Delhi, an experiment has shown how illiterate street children can quickly teach themselves the rudiments of computers and the internet. The aim of the experiment, funded by the Indian Government, local institutions and the World Bank was to see what role computers might play in educating India's illiterate millions. The results were startling, showing how much children with little or no English and no computer training at all could achieve. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/1502820.stm>

Pirated Movies, Software Swamp Pakistani Markets - A shabbily dressed hawker squabbles with a teen-ager over the price of a latest Microsoft Windows program in Pakistan's biggest city Karachi. The deal is closed at 40 rupees -- about \$0.70. Saad Hasan has just bought a pirated copy of Windows XP, which is more readily available in Pakistan than the licensed product which retails at 5,800 rupees (\$100). The Washington-based International Intellectual Property Alliance ranked Pakistan one of the world's largest producers of pirated CDs and other optical discs for export in both 2001 and 2002. http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=581&ncid=581&e=5&u=/nm/20030524/tc_nm/tech_pakistan_piracy_dc

MCWI-Fi Comes To Taiwan - McDonald's has rolled out wi-fi hot-spots at each of its Taiwanese locations with the help of Yaw Jeng Technology and Intel. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16455>

This Week@Americas/International

More Than Half Of Canada, U.S. Online - Based on data from the World Factbook 2002, Internet penetration in the United States and Canada is roughly 58 percent. This figures represents more than 182 million users between the two countries. Of the 165.75 million U.S. users, 122.43 million are estimated to be "active," according to March 2003 data from Nielsen//NetRatings. Nielsen//NetRatings defines active users as the number of people that actually go online in a given month. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/geographics/article/0,,5911_2200601,00.html
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

Brazil Boasts 14 Million Online - South America, the 4th largest continent, accounts for 12 percent of the Earth's land mass and is home to more than 355 million citizens. Only 27 million individuals online, however, creating an Internet penetration rate of just 8 percent. Chile has the highest penetration rate with 20 percent of its nearly 15.5 million citizens online, while Brazil boasts the greatest number of users — almost 14 million. Guyana and Uruguay are not far behind, with penetration rates of 14 percent and 12 percent respectively. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/geographics/article/0,,5911_2205881,00.html

Aruba Highest In Caribbean Net Population - The Caribbean — the area once widely referred to as the West Indies — is comprised of many island countries, dependencies and territories in the Caribbean Sea and is primarily known for tourism, not Internet accessibility. Boasting more than 37 million citizens, the region only has an Internet penetration of roughly 3 percent, with Aruba ranking the highest at 34 percent. The next closest in Internet penetration, Puerto Rico, trails far behind at 15 percent. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/geographics/article/0,,5911_2203981,00.html

This Week@US States

Fiber-Optic Lines On Fast Track - Three of the nation's largest local telephone companies announced yesterday that they had settled on a common set of standards for a new super-high-speed data network that could deliver Internet access, telephone service and dozens of television channels over fiber-optic cables. Verizon Communications Inc., BellSouth Corp. and SBC Communications Inc. said the agreement is intended to hasten construction of a new advanced network that would replace the copper wires now serving the vast majority of the nation's 100 million homes. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55680-2003May29.html>,



http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-05-29-fiber-optics_x.htm
Press release - http://www.sbc.com/press_room/1,5932,31,00.html?query=20507

Homeschooling In Cyberspace - Madeline Nelson of Steubenville, Ohio, has been in the third grade since last fall but has met her teacher only a few times. She has plenty of schoolwork to do, including book reports and her favorite, art projects. She gets her assignments online through the Ohio Virtual Academy, which she attends along with her sister Therese, 7, and brother Gabriel, 5, from the dining room table at home. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/29/technology/circuits/29clas.html> (free registration required)

San Francisco Leads In Speed - Those that can't live without Internet access should head to San Francisco, Calif., where the locale has earned the distinction of being the second most unwired city, and the first in broadband usage. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/geographics/article/0,,5911_2203551,00.html

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

Cable Modem V. DSL Adoption - According to a recent report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 31% of home Internet users in the US have high-speed access as of March 2003, representing a 50% rise since March 2002. Pew determines that over the past year, the number of cable modem users has risen to 67% of total broadband users in the US, compared to a decline in DSL users over the same time period. <http://www.emarketer.com/news/article.php?1002259&c=newsltr&n=lead&t=ad>
PEW INTERNET REPORT - <http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/toc.asp?Report=90>
More analysis - http://cyberatlas.internet.com/markets/broadband/article/0,,10099_2208421,00.html

First-Mile Ethernet Enters Home Stretch - Equipment tailored for Ethernet in the First Mile (EFM) could be ready to roll this summer, as the specification is approaching a critical milestone within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE). Participants in the IEEE 802.3ah task force say their draft standard is almost ready for a working-group vote in July. At that point, the standard would be solid enough to build products on, even though formal ratification would be at least six months away. http://www.lighthead.com/document.asp?doc_id=34355

Is A Wi-Fi Bubble Building? - As one of tech's few growth areas, it's luring startups and VC cash -- in a familiar pattern. First to feel a pop may be consumer outfits. Wi-Fi is the increasingly popular technology that lets anyone with a laptop and a wireless card surf the Web from home or work, in airports or cafés. In 2002, according to Allied Business Intelligence in Oyster Bay, N.Y., worldwide sales of Wi-Fi equipment soared by 25%, to \$1.25 billion -- an anomaly in the current economy. This year, ABI expects orders for such gear to jump 33%, to \$1.67 billion. Wowed by such projections, venture capitalists poured more than \$2 billion into various Wi-Fi outfits in 2002, according to one major venture firm. http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/may2003/tc20030522_7618_tc119.htm

AOL Drops Suit, Joins Microsoft In Alliance - Microsoft Corp. agreed yesterday to pay \$750 million to AOL Time Warner Inc. to drop an antitrust suit against the software giant, in a deal that turns one-time rivals into powerful partners. In addition to settling their legal battle, the two companies -- the world's biggest software maker and the biggest entertainment company -- agreed to collaborate on technology that could one day set the standard for how music and movies are sold over the Internet. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A55960-2003May29.html>

Facts And Stats

April 2003 Internet Usage Stats - The average Internet activity — both at work and at home — in April for surfers in the U.S., UK, and Australia, as reported by Nielsen//NetRatings Inc. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/traffic_patterns/article/0,,5931_2204911,00.html

Population Explosion - CyberAtlas has updated its list of the global online populations, with some new figures for the number of Internet Users, Active Internet Users, and other data. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/geographics/article/0,,5911_151151,00.html

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