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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Pentagon Launches Internet Voting Effort For Overseas American - Thousands of overseas Americans are expected to be able to cast ballots from their home computers in the 2004 elections, the Pentagon said. Military personnel and civilians alike will be eligible to take part in the federal government's most ambitious experiment yet in Internet-based voting. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/921218.asp?cp1=1>

Gallup Poll - Public Split On Impact Of Tax Cuts On U.S. Economy - The American public is divided in its opinion of the impact the newly passed tax cuts will have on the nation -- 47% say they will help the U.S. economy and 47% say they will not. The public is also divided as to whether tax cuts are a good or bad idea at this time. However, relatively few Americans say that the tax cuts will help their families' financial situations. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr030605.asp>

Department Seeks Broad Input For New National Education Technology Plan - The U.S. Department of Education today announced that it is calling for broad participation and input from a wide array of education stakeholders in crafting a new National Education Technology Plan, as required by the recently enacted No Child Left Behind law. The department is actively seeking advice from a variety of constituencies in education, especially students, parents, K-12 educators, colleges and university leaders, and business and industry. Individuals and organizations are being asked to identify and communicate to the Department of Education their top issues, priorities, concerns, and barriers that need to be addressed for technology to improve teaching and learning in the 21st century. Interested parties can give their input by visiting the National Education Technology Plan's Web site at www.NationalEdTechPlan.org, and clicking on the "Participate in the Plan" link. <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/05-2003/05232003.html>

Competitive Enterprise Institute Spam Study - CEI has published a new study of the problems caused by spam e-mail and an analysis of possible solutions. The full text of the study, written by research analyst Hanah Metchis and senior policy analyst Solveig Singleton is available on the CEI website. <http://www.cei.org/pdf/3482.pdf> (Adobe file)

This Week@EMEA

Options Rule Poses Profit Threat - The world's 500 largest industrial companies face an average 15 per cent fall in profits if the cost of stock options is deducted from earnings, according to a critical new study. European groups with a large number of employees' options such as Nokia, Hennes & Mauritz, BP and Glaxo SmithKline, would be affected by the new rules, which could become mandatory for Europe's 7,000 quoted companies from 2005. http://search.ft.com/search/article.html?id=030606001916&query=stock+options&vsc_appId=totalSearch&state=Form (Paid subscription required)

European Broadband Access Up 136% In Last 13 Months - High-speed Internet access in Europe continues to grow at a healthy rate, according to market research firm Nielsen/Netratings. The number of Europeans using broadband Internet connections at home grew by 136% in the past year, the firm said. The beneficiaries of the broadband boom would appear to be entertainment sites, in particular adult entertainment,



Netratings said. The biggest gainer in the past year was Britain where broadband penetration more than tripled to 3.7 million users.
<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P20724DB4>

Europe Pushes To Keep Net Free - Governments should refrain from censoring information transmitted via the internet, a pan-European grouping of nations said. The Council of Europe also called on countries to promote ease of access for all their citizens to the internet, and to ensure that service providers were not systematically held responsible for material transmitted over their servers without their knowledge. In a "Declaration on Freedom of Communication on the internet," the grouping's Council of ministers laid down seven principles aimed at guaranteeing the right to free information, as enshrined in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,6530450%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

Monti Seeks Help - The EU competition supremo wants outside help to take on mighty France Telecom. Brussels' competition department is offering €320,000 (£230,000) in exchange for "financial and legal support" in its probe of a €9bn state bail-out of one of France's corporate crown jewels.
<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1054416434362&p=1012571727260> (Paid subscription required)

Using Technology To Develop Arab-Jewish Ties - Can Israel's drive to develop its technology sector as the nation's economic crown jewel help overcome generations of animosity between Arabs and Jews? That's the hope, distant and romantic as it may be, of Israel's first state-supported Jewish-Arab high-technology incubator, which was privately founded in 2002, not long after Israeli-Palestinian tensions erupted again into open violence. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/06/business/worldbusiness/06INCUB.html> (Free registration required)

eBay To Tax Transactions In Europe, Increase Fees - Internet auction site eBay Inc. warned users it will begin collecting tax on transactions on its European sites at the same time it will raise most fees for merchants in its biggest European markets, separate moves that could crimp near-term growth in its increasingly important overseas businesses. eBay is making the change to comply with European Union regulations that go into effect on July 1 requiring collection of VAT on digital services, including music and software downloaded from Web sites. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB105475448739939200,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Czech Parliament Unbundles Local Loop - However, alternative operators are not expected to take out last mile leases in any significant fashion for a while. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16538>

Italy Approves Public Wi-Fi Services - The Italian Communications Authority has overall authority in studying the issue and promulgating specific rules. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=16516>

Partnership Built On The Web - The effort to integrate Nigeria into the world economy has found expression in another initiative. This new effort has been spearheaded by the commercial service of the American Embassy in Nigeria in collaboration with a number of private sector practitioners. The result is the creation of the Global Trade and Investment Management (GTIM) network, an internet-based network designed to convert an aspiring entrepreneur into a global business person, whether doing business across the street or across the ocean.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200306020474.html>

This Week@Asia/Pacific

SingTel Seen Hit By US-Singapore Free Trade Pact - Singapore's newly minted free trade pact with the United States will hasten the opening up of the city state's domestic telecom market and turn the heat on Singapore Telecommunications Ltd to raise more revenues abroad. The first sign that the U.S.-Singapore free trade agreement (FTA) could hit SingTel's competitive edge came last week when the island state's telecoms regulator decided to examine opening access to the local leased circuits (LLCs) market, analysts said.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=581&ncid=581&e=10&u=/nm/20030605/tc_nm/telecoms_singapore_dc

YAHOO Lobbies Australia Against Spam - YAHOO executives will meet with Communications Minister Richard Alston to urge the speedy implementation of planned new laws to wipe out junk email, or spam. Legislation to try to stop spam invading mailboxes is being formulated. Yahoo said a March ACNielsen consult internet user survey found the number one concern of net users was junk email and/or intrusive marketing. <http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,6542698%5E15318%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

Cisco Donates Equipment And Services To Aid China's Anti- Sars Effort - Equipment to be Used by China's Ministry of Health to Create a National Epidemic Data Exchange Network to Fight SARS - China's Ministry of Health (MOH) plans to build a national epidemic data exchange network as a key tool in protecting people from the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Cisco Systems announced



that it will donate networking equipment and services to the MOH, help set up the network and provide further support to China's ongoing efforts to monitor and control the disease. http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/prod_052103.html

India's Rural Masses Have Embraced Latest Wi-Fi Technology, Say Experts - Wi-fi, the technology that wirelessly connects to the Internet, is being used by many rural centres across India to access important information and facilities. In the Loni-Shirdi area of western Maharashtra, over 200 villages have formed a cooperative and raised Rs 2 crore to leverage information technology for their benefit. They have set up nearly 50 wireless 'hotspots' to harness the latest wi-fi systems so that villagers can get agricultural access systems right at their doorsteps. The technology to wirelessly connect to the Internet has recently been legalised by the government. http://infochangeindia.org/ItanddItop.jsp?section_idv=9#2168

Malaysia's Internet Investment - Federal Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia will spend RM10 million to set up another 40 rural Internet centres nationwide this year. Ten such centres will be built in Sabah and Sarawak. Its Deputy Minister Datuk Tan Chai Ho said there are presently 16 such Internet centres in the country to accommodate the needs of rural folks. The new centres would have three to five personal computers each and managed by a committee appointed by local community. <http://www.brunei-online.com/bb/wed/jun4b1.htm>

This Week@Americas/International

The European Commission Funds Latin American Research Networking - Within the framework of the @LIS programme, the European Commission signed today a € 12.5 million contract with the non-profit organisation DANTE (Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe) for the creation of a Latin American intra-regional research networking infrastructure and its interconnection to the pan-European research network, GÉANT. The European Commission will finance 80% of the project, the remaining 20% coming from contributions made by the Latin American partners. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/811/0|RAPID&lg=EN

This Week@US States

Unions, States Seek To Block Outsourcing Of Jobs Overseas - Alarmed by jobs flowing overseas where skilled workers are cheaper, state lawmakers and labor unions are fighting back. Legislation aimed at keeping jobs in the U.S. is pending in at least five states -- New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Missouri and Washington. The bills employ a variety of methods, including blocking companies from using foreign workers on state contracts and requiring foreign call-center employees to identify where they are located. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB105459073563672300,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Legislators Call For Fix To Law Against Unsolicited E-Mails - Almost everyone hates spam. So to many people, Jesse Riddle is a hero. The Utah lawyer has filed nearly 1,000 lawsuits against unsolicited commercial e-mail on behalf of hundreds of clients under the state's tough year-old antispam legislation. And he says he plans to file more suits until spammers get the message. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB105484626839598400,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

Mckinsey: Making Sense Of Broadband - While many providers of broadband access have fallen on hard times—DirecTV in the United States is only the latest to exit the business—broadband itself is gaining popularity. More than 100 million subscribers have signed on across Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and growth is likely to continue evenly in all three. As broadband moves into the mainstream, it is reshaping the telecommunications, cable, and Internet access industries. So far, there are no "killer applications" beyond faster, better access to the Internet. But this alone has important implications for any company with an Internet business, for when broadband access reaches the saturation point in a market, new applications with the potential to disrupt existing market structures can come on-line quickly. http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/article_abstract.asp?ar=1296&L2=38&L3=98&srid=27&gp=0 (Free registration required)

Health Collaborative Backs Standards-Based Records, Launches Pilot Network - Improved care and privacy protection are major goals - A nationwide collaborative of hospitals, federal health care agencies and health care industry IT vendors that's backed by the New York-based Markle Foundation today released the results of their efforts to use information systems to improve patient care, lower costs and protect privacy. <http://www.computerworld.com/databasetopics/data/story/0,10801,81839,00.html>
Healthcare study: http://www.connectingforhealth.org/news/pressrelease_060503.html



Roving The Globe, Laptops Alight On Wireless Hot Spots - Inside the Waag, a former customs house and gallows that towers over the Nieuwmarkt here (Amsterdam), the price of cappuccino continues to rise. Yet the wireless Internet access in the surrounding square is perfectly free. As this public-access project and countless others demonstrate, the phenomenon known as Wi-Fi has not gone unnoticed beyond the United States. So travelers heading abroad this summer with a Wi-Fi-equipped laptop will be able to log on at high speed, sometimes free, in places ranging from Amsterdam to Mount Everest to the Dead Sea. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/05/technology/circuits/05trav.html> (Free registration required)

Verizon Turns Over Names In Piracy Case - Verizon Communications Inc. reluctantly surrendered to the music industry on Thursday the names of four Internet subscribers suspected of illegally offering free song downloads, but vowed to keep fighting the law that forced its hand. Verizon was compelled to give up the names Wednesday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Washington, D.C., which rejected the telecom giant's request for a stay while it appeals a lower court decision won by the Recording Industry Association of America.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=528&ncid=528&e=3&u=/ap/20030605/ap_on_hi_te/downloading_music

Broadband Internet Use Has Its Risks, Study Finds - Besides speed, the most coveted feature of a broadband connection is that it is always on. But according to a study that is scheduled to be released today, those two advantages are exposing broadband customers to far greater risk than most of them realize. The study, conducted by the National Cyber Security Alliance, highlights the chasm between the assumptions of consumers about the security of their Internet connection and the reality. The result is a high risk of hacking, viruses and identity theft, according to Keith Nahigian, the spokesman for the alliance and a consultant to the Office of Homeland Security.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/04/technology/04NET.html?th> (Free registration required)

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