



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

High-Speed Internet Growth Slows, FCC Finds - High-speed Internet connections grew 23 percent in the second half of 2002, the U.S. government said, as households and businesses signed up for broadband service at a slowing clip. The Federal Communications Commission said 3.7 million new subscribers signed up for broadband between June and December 2002, a rate of growth down from the 27 percent posted in the first half of the year. For the full year, the number of high-speed lines increased by 58 percent. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40249-2003Jun10.html>

FCC REPORT - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-235274A1.pdf (Adobe file)

Pentagon To Use New Net Protocol - The Defense Department said it planned to link its high-tech weaponry, battlefield sensors and other communications systems to an upgraded Internet operating system within five years. John Stenbit, the Pentagon's chief information officer, said the current system, which the Defense Department helped develop decades ago, is too limited to meet the needs of today's technology-driven armed forces. <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,59244,00.html>

Commerce Secretary Evans Announces New Bush Administration Initiative To Modernize And Improve Management Of Nation's Airwaves - Presidential Initiative Seeks to Develop, Implement Spectrum Policy for 21st Century - Commerce Secretary Don Evans announced a major new Bush Administration initiative to develop a radio spectrum policy for the 21st Century that will better manage the nation's airwaves, enhance homeland and economic security, increase benefits to consumers and ensure U.S. leadership in high-tech innovations. <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/press/2003/Initiative060503.htm>

Hatch Advocates Destroying Pcs Of Music Downloaders - The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said he favors developing new technology to remotely destroy the computers of people who illegally download music from the Internet. The surprise remarks by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, during a hearing on copyright abuses represent a dramatic escalation in the frustrating battle by industry executives and lawmakers in Washington, D.C., against illegal music downloads. http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/127080_hatch18.html

Op-Ed - U.S. Shouldn't Meddle In Running Internet Economy - Technology titans' coalition wants the government to put its competitors at a disadvantage: Washington should adopt a hands-off policy on the issue, saying no to special interests - By Rep. John Conyers Jr. - <http://www.detnews.com/2003/editorial/0306/17/a09-195169.htm>

Agencies Urged Not To Sell E-Gov Projects As Cost-Cutters - The real value of electronic government projects lies in how they make federal services more accessible to the public, not in the cost savings they may generate, experts said at a technology forum. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0603/061703a1.htm>

House Moves To Boost E-Filing - Millions of people who file their taxes electronically would get an extra 15 days to do so each spring, under a bill passed Thursday by the House. Moving the deadline to April 30 for electronic filers is one of the incentives that officials want to use to encourage more taxpayers to file and pay electronically. The new deadline would not apply to taxpayers who fill out their returns by hand and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service. <http://www.latimes.com/technology/la-fi-efile20jun20,1,4231012.story?coll=la->



[headlines-technology](#) (Free registration required)

This Week@EMEA

Broadband Entrepreneurs Wire The Nation - Around the UK, small communities are banding together to get access to fast net services. It is testament to the power of broadband technology that so many people are arguing that they should be entitled to it - by whatever means necessary - and bypassing traditional routes to get even the most remote areas wired.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/2988708.stm>

EU Closes Tax Loophole For Foreign Internet Companies - In a move aimed at leveling the playing field for European companies that pay value added tax (VAT) and foreign companies that do not, the European Union has closed a tax loophole that for years has been exploited by online auctioning companies like eBay. Beginning next month, foreign Internet companies operating in Europe must charge VAT for services and products sold on their Web sites. eBay's European unit is likely to be hit hard by the decision, the company said. eBay Europe Vice President Michael van Swaij put it simply: "Now, the EU is going to get its cut."

http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm

Speech - Mr Erkki Liikanen - Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society - "CHALLENGES OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY" - "In the year 2000, the European Union put together a strategy to prepare the EU economy for the challenges of the new century. This was launched at the meeting of Heads of State and Government in Lisbon and has become known as the "Lisbon strategy". A key element of the strategy was the recognition of information and communication technologies and, in particular, the Internet as an important source of increased productivity and growth."

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/309|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Speech - Mr Erkki Liikanen - Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society - "CYBERSECURITY AND THE EUROPEAN NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY AGENCY" - European Parliament Public Forum. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/293|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Greater Education On How To Use The Internet Safely Key To Protecting Our Children - Ensuring a satisfactory level of protection among children when they use the Internet requires both the help of industry and parents. Ultimately, children themselves need to be made fully aware of the dangers of communicating through Internet chat rooms in order to ensure they are in a position to make informed decisions and protect themselves when they use this powerful information and communication tool.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=CES/03/39|0|RAPID&lg=EN

School Launches Herculean Hot Spot - The University of Twente in the Netherlands has launched a unique, campuswide wireless hot spot, claimed to be the biggest in Europe. Covering 346 acres with 650 Cisco Aironet 1200 series access points, it supports more than 6,000 students and a staff of 2,500. Built in conjunction with IBM and Cisco Systems, it uses 802.1x-based security. http://news.com.com/2100-1039_3-1017988.html

Ex-Russian Military Retrains For New Careers In Internet Networking - Cisco Systems has teamed up with The Institute for Vocational Training and Retraining at the Rostov State Civil Engineering University, to train former military officers in managing computer networks. Cisco's Networking Academy Program enables officers who have been discharged from the Russian Army on medical grounds, or who have served longer than five years, to retrain and obtain qualifications to help them find employment as civilians.

http://lw.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=OnlineArticles&SubSection=Display&PUBLICATION_ID=13&ARTICLE_ID=178850

Saddam's Home Page Gets Face Lift - Following a two-month war hiatus, Iraq's Uruklink website is expected to return to the Internet this week. Formerly the official homepage of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime, the site has been scrubbed clean of any traces of the fallen dictator, according to officials with Iraq's State Company for Internet Services, or SCIS.

<http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,59183,00.html>

Kabul's Cyber Café Culture - When Kabul-based businessman Sabir Latifi opened his internet cafe in the Afghan capital last December, he had little idea what to expect. After all, he had only logged on to the internet for the first time ever just a few weeks earlier.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/2987270.stm



Lebanese IT Expert Holds Out High Hopes For Future - Politicians 'striving' for improvement - Lebanon has the commitment at the highest political level to make e-Lebanon a reality, according to Talal Abu Ghazale, vice-chairman of UN Information and Communications Technologies Task Force (ICT TF). "Both President Lahoud and Premier Hariri are striving to integrate Lebanon into the global economic community and the global information society," said Ghazale during the Toward e-Lebanon forum at the Phoenicia Inter-Continental Hotel in Beirut. http://www.dailystar.com.lb/business/14_06_03_c.asp

Online Access For The Inaccessible - Smart new buses fitted out with computers and a satellite dish are taking the internet into South Africa's most rural regions. The pioneering scheme has so far seen three pilot buses parking at schools and community centres so residents in remote areas can go online for the first time in their lives. Now Communications department director-general Andile Ngcaba is pushing for a whole fleet to be created so every province can have at least one internet bus. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200306120486.html>

This Week@Asia/Pacific

DSL Takes On The World - According to the latest data from Point-Topic, the US is virtually tied with Japan for the lead in the number of DSL subscribers. Yet the US, one of few countries where cable Internet access is the most popular broadband option, doesn't even make the top 10 in terms of DSL penetration. The top four countries by penetration, as noted in eMarketer's recent *Broadband Worldwide* report, are all in Asia. <http://www.emarketer.com/news/article.php?1002290&c=newsltr&n=interv&t=ad>

China Tightening Controls On Internet Cafes - China said it had given licenses to 10 local firms to open Internet cafe chains, a move analysts said was designed to squeeze out smaller players and tighten control of sensitive political information. Most of the franchise licenses were given to state-owned companies such as China United Telecommunications, parent of China Unicom, Great Wall Broadband Network Service or those affiliated with the Ministry of Culture. "We aim to boost the Internet cafe business by encouraging chain operations," Liu Qiang, an official at the ministry's Internet culture division, told Reuters. "It helps to standardise the business." http://www.usatoday.com/tech/world/2003-06-10-china-net-cafes_x.htm

This Week@US States

Idaho Police Department Installs WLAN Gear - Scott Haug, a patrol lieutenant on the police force in Post Falls, Idaho, decided last year that he wanted to give officers access to the same kind of applications and information they might use at the station on their desktop computers, while they were out patrolling the city in their cruisers. <http://www.computerworld.com/mobiletopics/mobile/story/0,10801,80849,00.html>

Federal Grants Give Tribes On-Ramp To Broadband - American Indians in rural areas across America will get some help surfing the Web, thanks to the federal government. A \$20 million grant announced Monday for high-speed connections to the Internet includes \$8.2 million for Indian tribes. The Coeur d'Alene tribe will get \$2.7 million, the largest single amount. "It's almost like when our tribe got the horse," said Valerie Fast Horse, who is overseeing the project. "People couldn't imagine what we would do with the horse when we got it. Then we got the horse, we jumped on its back and we took off." http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2003-06-10-native-american-access_x.htm

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

Technology Key To Redesigning Higher Education - A call to action issued June 12 by the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) urges educators and policy makers to create a presidential commission to redesign post-secondary education in efforts to better prepare students for 21st-century careers—and technology must be a key component of this new design, the forum said. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4468&ref=wo> (Free registration required)
THE REPORT - http://www.acenet.edu/bookstore/pdf/2003_build_nation.pdf (Adobe file)

Local Bells Look To Fiber To Stem Some Losses - Can a new high-fiber diet restore some health to the beleaguered local phone business? The three largest local Bell companies, SBC Communications Inc., BellSouth Corp. and Verizon Communications Inc. have together lost nearly 9% of their retail phone lines in the past five quarters alone, according to Morgan Stanley. High-speed Internet users continue to flock to cable modems at twice the rate they sign up for the Bells' own digital-subscriber-line services. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB105597064426536400,00.html> (Paid subscription required)



The Man Pushing Faster Internet Access In U.S. - The United States, where the Internet was invented, now falls behind Japan, Korea and Canada in deploying high-speed Internet access in homes and businesses. But advocates for quicker transfer of e-mail, Web site content and music files, take note: Peter K. Pitsch is on the case. Mr. Pitsch is a self-described staunch free-market Republican who once served as chief of staff for the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Today, he is the top lobbyist for the Intel Corporation and a coalition of the technology companies in their efforts to press the government for a national policy as crucial to general economic growth — one that would accelerate the spread of broadband, or high-speed, Internet access. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/09/technology/09PETE.html> (Free registration required)

WiFi Start-Ups Are Thriving - Someone forgot to tell the wireless start-ups that Silicon Valley is still in a slump. Trapeze Networks in Pleasanton, a company that makes WiFi switch equipment for managing corporate wireless networks, announced last week that it had raised \$34 million in venture funding. Competitor Aruba Networks in San Jose is set to ship a new WiFi switch today, and founders said it too is tying up loose ends on another round of financing that will be significantly more than its first round of \$10 million. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/news/local/6106092.htm>

802.11g Wins Final Approval - The Standards Board Review Committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers approved the 802.11g standard for wireless communication. An estimated 6 million users already have 802.11g devices on networks. The theoretical top rate for 802.11g is 54 Mbps, compared with 11 Mbps for the earlier 802.11b standard, making possible demanding applications such as streaming videoconferences. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/22449-1.html

FAA Commissions Safety Study Of In-Air Cell Phones - A study commissioned by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Air Transport Association is intended to resolve a long-standing question: Do wireless telecommunications devices on commercial flights interfere with navigational equipment? The study, to be conducted by the nonprofit group RTCA, will investigate the effects of high-altitude communications from handheld computers, laptops and cell phones. Experts say there is no proof that wireless devices interfere with navigation systems. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14290-2003Jun19.html>

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