



# Government Affairs e-Update



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## This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs – SPECIAL REPORT

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### TechNet Releases State-by-State Ranking of Broadband Deployment Policies Broadband Index Assesses Policies in 25 Top States

FULL REPORT: [http://www.technet.org/resources/State\\_Broadband\\_Index.pdf](http://www.technet.org/resources/State_Broadband_Index.pdf) (Adobe file)

**JULY 17, 2003 - Palo Alto, CA** -- The Technology Network (TechNet), a national network of more than 200 CEOs and senior executives in the high technology and biotechnology industries, today unveiled The State Broadband Index assessing state policies that impact broadband deployment and demand. Michigan and Florida lead the nation in policies that encourage next-generation broadband networks.

"Broadband is the foundation for our nation's continued technological and economic leadership," said Rick White, President and CEO of TechNet. "The states at the top of the Broadband Index have shown leadership in clearing roadblocks to broadband deployment and adopting innovative policies that foster demand for the benefit of their citizens and industry."

Broadband - the capacity to deliver Internet access with a continuous "always on" connection and the ability to both receive and transmit digital content or services at high speeds - has the potential to significantly improve our economy. Universal access to high-speed Internet connections could inject an estimated \$300 billion into the U.S. economy each year. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the U.S. currently ranks sixth in the world in broadband access behind Korea, Canada, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium with a penetration rate of only 6 out of 100 residents having high speed Internet, largely due to the lack of coordinated broadband deployment policies.

With the State Broadband Index, TechNet examines the key role that states can play in making broadband available to all Americans. The report ranks the top 25 states based on the extent to which their public policies spur or impede broadband deployment and demand, and includes a Best Practices Guide to the most innovative state broadband initiatives.

"Michigan's commitment to jump-starting broadband is already benefiting our citizens and industry," stated Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, "The State Broadband Index highlights one of the most critical technology policy challenges facing states today and is a valuable resource to state governments."

"A national broadband strategy will not succeed without a concerted national and state commitment to a business climate that facilitates broadband deployment," stated John Chambers, President and CEO of Cisco Systems and co-founder of TechNet. "We urge the Governors and policymakers in all 50 states to make broadband a priority and to use this report as a roadmap to a comprehensive broadband strategy."

"The State Broadband Index highlights the important role of the states in determining our nation's broadband future," stated Eric Benhamou, Chairman of 3Com Corporation and Palm, "With the right policies and leadership, states can lay the groundwork for



the next-generation infrastructure that will drive technological and economic growth, and improve quality of life."

The Broadband Index Top 10 states are:

1. Michigan
2. Florida
3. Missouri
4. Texas
5. Ohio
6. Washington
7. Kansas
8. Virginia
9. Colorado
10. Iowa

The State Broadband Index calls on states to consider a range of policies critical to broadband deployment, including:

- legislation that standardizes and expedites rights-of-way permitting;
- adoption of a state-wide broadband strategy and creation of a lead broadband agency;
- comprehensive infrastructure mapping;
- policies to enable wholesale municipal networks;
- innovative initiatives that increase private sector deployment;
- financial incentives to reach underserved communities; and
- demand-promotion efforts including enhanced e-government.

*The Technology Network (TechNet) is the national network of chief executive officers and senior executives of the nation's leading companies in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, venture capital, investment banking and law. TechNet has called for an affordable 100-megabit per second broadband connection to 100 million homes and small businesses by the year 2010 and a national strategy to achieve this goal. For more info, [www.technet.org](http://www.technet.org).*

*The Broadband Index was completed in conjunction with Analysys, the global advisers in telecommunications, IT and new media, works at the forefront of the communications revolution, delivering advice and insight to clients in the public and private sectors. Analysys staff provide strategy and systems consultancy and information services to the companies that are creating the networked economy, and regulatory and policy advice to governments on all six continents. [www.Analysys.com](http://www.Analysys.com)*



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