



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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SPECIAL EVENT - SEPTEMBER 8TH ITAA WEBCAST ON VoIP – 2PM ET, 11AM PT – Throughout 2003, the State Public Utility Commissioners around the United States have increased their focus of VoIP technologies and some States have started taking specific actions. Webcast is free and open to non-ITAA members. Two VoIP experts will present: Jim Kohlenberger is a former White House Senior Domestic Policy Advisor and specialist on telecom policy. Jeff Pulver, President and CEO of pulver.com, Inc., is a globally respected visionary with more than a decade of experience in Internet and IP communications. <http://www.ita.org/events/register.cfm?EventID=820>

This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Phone Companies Challenge FCC Rule - Rate Cuts for Rivals Called Unfair - The nation's largest telephone companies asked a federal court to throw out new Federal Communications Commission regulations that they say unfairly allow competitors to lease parts of their networks at deep discounts. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A61601-2003Aug28.html>

Commentary: How To Get U.S. Broadband Up To Speed - Providers and the feds must work together to stop the U.S. from falling further behind - Broadband is on a tear in the U.S. for the 12 months ended in June, the number of speedy, always-on internet connections has soared 43%, to 22 million users, according to market researcher RHK Inc. That's 18% of U.S. households. In four years, it could balloon to 50% of American households, estimates Forrester Research Inc. The service is surging "faster than any other consumer technology except DVDs," says Forrester analyst Jed Kolko. Yet for all that progress, the U.S. is hardly the world's broadband leader. http://www.businessweek.com/premium/content/03_36/b3848084_mz063.htm?se=1 (Paid subscription required)

Spectrum Issues Key For New NTIA Chief - The "NTIA" is not a household acronym. Unlike the FBI or CIA, it's kind of bulky and doesn't roll off the tongue so easily. But when it comes to federal agencies, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration plays a prominent role in the daily lives of ordinary American citizens. Whether it's something fairly newfangled to the general public like Wi-Fi Internet access, or something as omnipresent as wireless phones, the NTIA makes key decisions and recommendations that affect the way Americans interact with technology. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7661-2003Aug31.html>

"A Triennial Tiger By The Tail" - OP-ED by Solveig Singleton - We can all breathe now—the Federal Communications Commission has finally released its long-awaited order on local phone competition, the so-called "Triennial Review." What does the order mean? Some predict that investors will flock to new-built broadband, which the FCC freed nationwide. Others emphasize the more bewildering aspects of the order affecting voice service; the FCC gave state public utility commissions the final choice (with some guidance) of which parts of the voice network would be freed from wholesale price controls. <http://www.cei.org/gencon/016,03646.cfm>

More Companies Are Routing Calls Via Internet - It was after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that Tom Pyke, the chief information officer for the Department of Commerce, realized that he needed to expand the agency's emergency communications. Just over a year later, in December 2002, after a competitive selection process, a new telephone system was installed to support 4,000 people at agency headquarters in Washington and another 6,000 at the department's nearby Bureau of the Census. Instead of selecting conventional phones, the Commerce Department chose a setup made by Cisco Systems that uses Internet Protocol, or I.P., technology. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/01/technology/01VOIP.html> (Free registration required)



Homeland Security: Reforming Federal Grants To Better Meet Outstanding Needs, by Paul L. Posner, managing director, budget and intergovernmental issues, before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security, Senate Committee on the Judiciary. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1146T>

NIST Gets A Permanent CIO - National Institute of Standards and Technology director Arden Bement Jr. named Cita Furlani the CIO of the Commerce Department agency. Furlani has been acting CIO of NIST since November 2002. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_nol/daily-updates/23389-1.html

This Week@EMEA

Speech - Mr Erkki Liikanen - Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society "Strategies to boost the Broadband in Europe" Informal Telecoms Council Viterbo, 4 September 2003 - http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/385|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Ireland - ComReg Announcement On GSM 1800 Mhz Radio Spectrum - The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) issued its response to a second consultation on facilitating broadband wireless access services in the spectrum licensed to GSM1800 MHz mobile telecom operators. The response is available from the ComReg web site (www.comreg.ie) in document 03/104. http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/publications/PR290803.pdf (Adobe file)

Confounding The Sceptics - Lack Of Leadership Has Led To Confusion And Contradiction, But Digital Government Is Working, says Ian Kearns, of the Institute of Public Policy Research - OP-ED - You might be forgiven for thinking that technology and government do not go together. The history of government IT projects is, after all, one of failure. Remember the passport crisis, when desperate holidaymakers queued on the street as a new IT system failed to take the strain? Only around one in 10 citizens is actively using an e-government service despite the millions being spent to get all services online by 2005. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,1034803,00.html>

Wired For Work? ICT And Job Seeking In Rural Areas - An investigation of the current and potential role for ICT in delivering job search services for unemployed people - Policy makers are increasingly turning to information and communications technologies (ICT) to provide public services, especially in rural areas. This report investigates the current and potential role for ICT, and particularly the Internet, in delivering job search services for unemployed people. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=552> (Free download)

Speech - Mr Erkki Liikanen - Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society "EU's co-operation with the Latin America and the Caribbean to boost the Information Society" Opening Session of the EU-LAC Information Society Forum Lima, 20 July 2003 - http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/380|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Commission Reviews First Case Under New Electronic Communications Regime - The Commission has reviewed the first case submitted to it under the new regulatory framework for electronic communications. Ofcom, the UK national regulatory authority ("NRA"), came to the conclusion that there was sufficient competition in one of the UK wholesale mobile markets making existing sector-specific regulation redundant. The Commission concurs with Ofcom's analysis and sent Ofcom its comments on 29 August 2003. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1203|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Ofcom Sets Out Regulatory Framework Under New EC Directives - Ofcom notified the European Commission of its proposals for regulation in several key telecoms markets. Ofcom published initial conclusions of a number of market reviews, which set out Ofcom's proposals for replacing existing regulation with new measures under the new EC Directives on electronic communications. Promoting competition is at the heart of the EC Directives – and the market reviews will ensure that, consistent with Ofcom's existing approach to regulation, the level of regulation reflects the level of competition in a particular market. http://www.ofcom.gov.uk/press/releases/2003/pr49_03.htm

EU Acts To Make Internet And Mobile Phones Safer - The European Commission has published a call for proposals to help make the Internet a safer place. €11.7 million of EU funding is made available to promote safer use of the Internet and new online technologies including mobile phones. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1204|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Finns Rush To Register Internet Domains - Finnish communications authorities were swamped with domain name applications for ".fi" suffixed Internet names, with more than 17,000 requests sent within hours after a change in legislation Monday allowed for more lax Internet addresses in the country. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/6669536.htm>



This Week@Asia/Pacific

Blackboard Inc. In China Deal - D.C. Company to Help Bring Internet to Universities -Blackboard Inc., a D.C.-based e-learning firm, is trying to reach further overseas with a deal giving it access to most of the universities in China through a new company that will be partly owned by a network of colleges and the Chinese government. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17254-2003Sep2.html>

Chinese Cell Phone Users Reach 250 Million - The number of mobile phone users in China has kept growing, reaching 250 million, according to the Ministry of Information Industry. Figures from the ministry showed that China witnessed nearly 51.86 million new phone subscribers in the first six months, of which 54.90 percent, or 28.47 million were cell phone users. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2003-08/29/content_1053785.htm

No Slap On Wrist For Spam In South Korea - South Korean Internet users are getting spammed much less after their government enacted laws that slap huge fines on companies that send unsolicited e-mail. The average Internet user in South Korea received 20 percent fewer e-mails in July, down from an all-time high of 43.4 per day in March, according to the Korean Information Security Agency, which attributed the decline to the new laws. <http://www.washtimes.com/business/20030901-102352-8411r.htm>

Asian Countries Seek Windows Alternative - Worried about the growing clout of Microsoft Corp., the governments of Japan, China and South Korea will collaborate with major high-tech companies to develop open-source software products that will offer an alternative to the Windows operating system, a Japanese government official said. The move comes at a time when an increasing number of governments around the world are wary of repeated computer-virus attacks that target Microsoft's Windows operating system. http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB106244424370118300,00.html?mod=technology_main_whats_news (Paid subscription required)

This Week@US States

Technology Cited In Sharp Rise Of SAT Scores - The nation's high school class of 2003 achieved the highest score on the math section of the SAT in at least 36 years--a gain some attribute to greater enrollment in advanced math and science courses and the proliferation of high-tech gadgets and computers. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4610>

VOIP Regulatory Battle Moving To The Us States - Since the Winter 2003 NARUC meetings, the State Public Utility Commissioners ("PUC") around the United States have increased their focus of VoIP technologies and some States have in fact started taking specific actions which the US VoIP Industry now needs to pay special attention to. <http://pulver.com/reports/statesfightvoip.html>

Web Site Helps Residents Find City Services - Need help finding a day care in your neighborhood? Buying your first home? Earning a GED? Sharpening your computer skills? City residents often spend many frustrating hours on the phone trying to find an organization that provides these services. Thanks to a new Web site - www.camdenresources.org - those days are over. <http://www.southjerseynews.com/issues/september/m090203f.htm>

Americans Fear Cyberattacks From Terrorists, Study Shows - Nearly half of all Americans surveyed say they are worried that terrorists could launch attacks through the networks connecting home computers and powerful utilities, a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17256-2003Sep2.html>
The report: http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP_Preparedness_Net_Memo.pdf (Adobe file)

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

The Case For Computerized Voting - Over the last two decades, geeks have rarely passed on an opportunity to replace a perfectly good mechanical device with a computerized system. Got one of those old-fashioned cash registers? Replace it with a PC and a touch screen. Got a hotel with perfectly good door locks and metal keys? Rip them out and replace them with computerized locks and swipe-cards. But there is a rising chorus of geeks — a chorus led by some very high-profile computer science professors and researchers — who say that one machine should never be computerized: the voting machine. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/961470.asp?0na=x22135R1q>

Digital Rift Needs Global Help - The first World Information Technology Forum, or WITFOR, agreed that international cooperation was needed so that poor countries were not left out of the flow of knowledge driving much of the modern economy. A statement adopted by delegates of 68 states and numerous technology companies at the end of the forum held in Vilnius that cooperation between states and public-



private linkups to bridge the "digital divide" were crucial to help reduce world poverty.
<http://www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,60252,00.html>

Music Industry To Unveil Amnesty Offer For Internet Downloaders - The recording industry is expected to announce as early as next week an amnesty program for people who admit they illegally share music files across the Internet, promising not to sue them in exchange for their admission and pledge to delete the songs off their computers. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-09-05-riaa-amnesty_x.htm

ABC News Launches 1st Scheduled Web-Only Broadcast - ABC News launched on its first daily scheduled programming exclusively for the Internet, a political talk show, the network said.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=9&u=/nm/20030903/wr_nm/media_abcnewsdotcom_dc&sid=95573503

Kid's Been Naughty? Instead Of Grounding, Try Banning The Internet - Nine-year-old Megan Beatty promised to clean her room, but her mom checked and still "couldn't see the floor." So Megan lost her Internet privileges for a day in July — no gaming on Neopets, no chatting with a distant pen pal online. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/webguide/internetlife/2003-08-31-clean-room-first_x.htm

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