



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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FASB DELAYS STOCK-OPTION PROPOSAL - U.S. accounting rule makers have postponed putting forth a proposal to require companies to account for stock options awarded to employees as a compensation expense until next year. The Financial Accounting Standards Board plans to complete a draft of the new rules by March and have a final rule in place by next September, said FASB spokeswoman Sheri Thompson. Previously, FASB planned to finish the draft by the end of this year. <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/business/6753519.htm>

This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Commentary - Time To Rewrite The Rules Of Telecom - Now that voice calls can be sent over the Net, existing phone regulations are becoming irrelevant. The FCC has to make some tough choices - http://businessweek.com/technology/content/sep2003/tc2003098_0676_tc004.htm

Tutorial On Technical Challenges Associated With The Evolution To VOIP - The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology is sponsoring a tutorial on Technical Challenges Associated with the Evolution to VoIP on September 22, 2003 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305), 445th 12th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-03-2860A1.pdf

Opinion - Why The FCC Needs A New Chief - Enough already. Michael Powell should resign as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Ever since President Bush named him FCC head in January, 2001 (he had been a minority GOP commissioner for three-and-a-half years under Bill Clinton), Powell has tried to push through new rules that would allow more ownership concentration in American media. http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/sep2003/nf2003098_6743_db028.htm

Senate Committee Moves To Block Media-Ownership Rules - The Senate Appropriations Committee dealt another potential setback to the Federal Communications Commission's new media ownership rules, adding an amendment to a spending bill that would prevent the agency from raising its cap on the size of large broadcast television networks.. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A27818-2003Sep4.html>

Consumer Coalition To FCC: More Spectrum For Unlicensed Wireless Broadband - A consumer coalition filed FCC comments urging the commission to open more "license exempt" spectrum for citizen use -- an action that would help bring affordable wireless broadband Internet to underserved communities. The coalition, led by the New America Foundation, Media Access Project and the Benton Foundation, responded to FCC-proposed changes to the so-called "ITFS/MDS" spectrum bands currently licensed for private use by educational organizations. http://www.newamerica.net/Download_Docs/pdfs/Pub_File_1350_1.pdf (Adobe file)

Two Years Later: The Patriot Act - Fierce Fight Over Secrecy, Scope Of Law
Amid Rights Debate, Law Cloaks Data On Its Impact -
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/a40110-2003sep7.html>



Senators Criticize State Of Transportation Security - Senators from both sides of the aisle criticized the Bush administration for not adequately funding transportation security initiatives and for not having a coordinated strategy to protect the country's transportation infrastructure from attack. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0903/090903w1.htm>

Officials Delay Mandate For Computer-Readable Passports - The Bush administration is delaying enforcement of impending rules that could have prevented citizens of 27 countries in Europe and Asia from traveling to the United States unless they carried new computer-readable passports, officials said. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51070-2003Sep9.html>

Opinion - Stealing Spectrum - Earlier this summer, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved passage of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act. The bill, originally authored in the House of Representatives by Fred Upton (R., Mich.), would use the proceeds from auctions of government-owned airwaves to create a special fund that would help federal agencies smoothly relocate from spectrum as it is sold to commercial entities. While the importance of this legislation may not be readily apparent, one has only to look at the tremendous bipartisan support of 408 votes it received in the House of Representatives to see the true magnitude of the issue. http://www.nationalreview.com/nrof_comment/comment-cors090403.asp

House E-Government Provision Falls \$44m Short Of Bush Request - The 2004 Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill passed by the House Tuesday night allots \$1 million to an interagency fund supporting electronic government projects—an amount well below that requested by President Bush and authorized in previous legislation. The Senate Appropriations Committee last week approved \$5 million for the interagency fund, the same amount the fund received for fiscal 2003.

Electronic Government: Challenges To The Adoption Of Smart Card Technology, by Joel Willemssen, managing director, information technology, before the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census, House Committee on Government Reform. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1108T>

New E-Gov Czar - To fulfill the administration's IT vision, the Office of Management and Budget named Energy Department CIO Karen Evans to replace Mark Forman as the head of federal IT. Evans will take over as OMB's associate administrator for IT and e-government next month, said Clay Johnson, OMB's deputy director for management, last week at the IRMCO conference in Cambridge, Md. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23438-1.html

This Week@EMEA

EU E-Government Observatory - The IDA eGovernment Observatory is a reference information tool on eGovernment issues and developments across Europe. It provides the community of eGovernment decision-makers and professionals with a unique set of information resources and with a valuable insight on eGovernment strategies, initiatives and projects in Europe and beyond. <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showChapter&chapterID=140&preChapterID=0>

Commissioner Erkki Liikanen To Visit South Korea And China - Enterprise and Information Society Commissioner Erkki Liikanen will travel to South Korea and China from 13 to 18 September 2003. The visit to China will be an opportunity to give political impetus to the increasingly close bilateral policy and regulatory co-operation in many areas. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1235/0/RAPID&lg=EN

EU Delays Vote On Digital Copyright Plan - A vote on the European Union's proposed directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights, which has been compared to a controversial U.S. law, has been pushed back to November. A U.K. civil liberties group says it believes the law could even backfire on some of its sponsors, such as Microsoft and eBay, by opening the companies up to more serious legal attacks. http://news.com.com/2100-1028_3-5074973.html

This Week@Asia/Pacific

China Blocks More Than 100 Internet Servers Over Spam - The Chinese government has blocked 127 computer servers it said were being used to send mass amounts of unwanted e-mail. The action comes a month after Internet users in the country announced the formation of a special antispam task force. The government-owned Internet Society of China (ISC) said any e-mail from the servers automatically would be prevented from reaching the recipient. The ISC said 90 of the servers were based in Taiwan and eight were from the mainland. The remaining were from outside China, including 16 from the United States. <http://www.washtimes.com/business/20030910-093814-6983r.htm>



Wiring Up A Knowledge Revolution In Rural India – An IT project in southern India is empowering low-caste village women, helping them net information on everything from grain prices and cataract operations to the Iraq war. Among the villages in the former French colony of Pondicherry which are hotspots in the Information Village Project (IVP), started by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), is sleepy Embalam, 12 miles from Pondicherry. <http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/67610/1/>

National Digital Technology Plan Takes Shape In Cambodia - Cambodia is preparing its first national information and communications technology (ICT) plan, with support from UNDP and the Asia Pacific Development Information Programme, a UNDP regional initiative. Agreement on creating the plan came at a national summit on ICT policy and strategy in June, where Prime Minister Hun Sen outlined a vision of a Cambodia that can "benefit from the dynamic pace of globalization" by making optimum use of ICT. <http://www.undp.org/dpa/frontpagearchive/2003/september/8sep03/index.html>

Australian Lawmakers Favor Secret Censorship Decisions - Australia's Senate has passed a bill that would cloak in secrecy the activities of four agencies that censor offensive Web sites, AustralianIT reports. The bill would ensure that freedom-of-information laws could not be used to disclose what content and Web sites are being banned by the government. <http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,7223234%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

This Week@US States

E-Rate Survival Guide And Tool-Kit - To help you keep abreast of the latest eRate developments, the editors of eSchool News have compiled this one-stop source for news, resources, and links concerning the \$2.25 billion program. Made possible by the generous support of e-Rate Consulting Services LLC, this eRate resource includes an extensive collection of news, articles, reports, and links from the eSchool News archives and the internet at large. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/erate/index.cfm>

CA Approves Internet Tax Bills - The California Assembly approved two bills aimed at helping the cash-strapped state collect more money from Internet sales as it deals with projected billion-dollar budget shortfalls. One measure would ban retailers from selling or shipping cigarettes to California addresses unless they provide the name and address of the buyer so the state can collect the tobacco and sales taxes. The Assembly also approved another Internet tax bill that would require the state to join a group of some 38 states and the District of Columbia, working to help states tax remote sellers, including those that operate online and via mail-order. http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=10&u=/nm/20030909/wr_nm/economy_california_internet_dc&sid=95573503

Microsoft, Philadelphia To Build School - A \$46 million high school dazzling with the latest technology - from interactive digital textbooks and computerized tablets to electronic play diagrams for the basketball team - will be built by the Philadelphia School District in partnership with Microsoft Corp., officials announced yesterday. <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/education/6694777.htm>

VA. To Put Data On All Schools On The Web - Virginians will be able to go online next year to see how their neighborhood schools stack up against each other in dropout rates, per-pupil spending and other performance measures, Gov. Mark R. Warner said. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51737-2003Sep9.html>

State Decisions 2003 Website – From Stateside Associates, this interactive website features candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General and provides links to campaign websites. You will also find partisan splits for state legislatures and a complete list of statewide Ballot Questions. <http://www.statedecisions2003.com/>

Cisco To Fund Voicemail For Poor - Imagine trying to survive in Silicon Valley without a phone. After all, this is a region where a home phone, at least one cell phone and a high-speed Internet connection are practically required. Cisco Systems is announcing a \$2.5 million grant to a Seattle non-profit agency that gives the homeless, poor and jobless -- here and around the country -- something most Silicon Valley residents take for granted: a voice-mail box. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/6719943.htm>

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

DSL Drives Global Broadband Growth ~ Subscribers Reach 46.7 Million - http://www.dslforum.org/PressRoom/news_9.09.2003.html

Global Privacy Report Is The Most Comprehensive Ever - The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) and Privacy International on Friday released its sixth annual Privacy and Human Rights survey which claims to be the most comprehensive survey on privacy and data



protection ever published. The report reviews the state of privacy in over fifty-five countries around the world. http://www.out-law.com/php/page.php?page_id=globalprivacyrepor1063034355
The Report: <http://www.privacyinternational.org/survey/phr2003/>

Information Security: Effective Patch Management Is Critical To Mitigating Software Vulnerabilities, by Robert F. Dacey, director, information security, before the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census, House Committee on Government Reform. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1138T>

New Revelation About E-Voting Glitch Revives Concerns - The strange case of an election tally that appears to have popped up on the Internet hours before polls closed is casting new doubts about the trustworthiness of electronic voting machines. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techinnovations/2003-09-10-electronic-voting-problem_x.htm

Instant Messaging Pact Reached - The America Online division of AOL Time Warner reached an agreement yesterday with the Reuters Group to link their competing instant messaging services, raising new questions about the possibility of connecting with other such services from Yahoo and MSN. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/10/technology/10aol.html> (Free registration required)

New Parent-To-Child Chat: Do You Download Music? - Tamara Amey has tried to instill solid values in her daughter on everything from schoolwork to sex, but what Kyla Amey, 16, did on her computer was up to her. Or at least until Ms. Amey heard that the record industry was planning to sue Internet file swappers. Last month, Ms. Amey ordered Kyla to delete the software she used to download popular songs without paying for them. But in their debate about online sharing and stealing, Ms. Amey sometimes feels more confused than confident. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/10/technology/10MUSI.html> (Free registration required)

Amnesty For Song Swappers? - The battle between the record industry and individuals who upload online music has a new wrinkle. Even as the Recording Industry Association of America is cracking down on file swappers, it also is willing to offer "amnesty." In exchange for wiping unauthorized song services and the tunes off the hard drive, and noting such in a notarized letter, the RIAA will agree not to file civil suits. But, if the person is discovered trading songs in the future, the association could come back with criminal charges, which carry even heftier fines. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-09-05-riaa-amnesty_x.htm

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