



Government Affairs e-Update



Volume 3, Issue 32
21 November 2003

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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Court Grants FCC Extension On Cable Ruling - A federal appeals court has granted the Federal Communications Commission an extension for filing a petition to rehear a controversial case involving cable regulation, an FCC source confirmed. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday said the FCC now has until Dec. 4 to file a petition asking the court to reconsider a previous ruling involving cable broadband regulation. http://news.com.com/2100-1034_3-5109586.html

President Bush Presses For Cybercrime Treaty - President Bush has asked the U.S. Senate to ratify the first international cybercrime treaty. In a letter to the Senate, Bush called the Council of Europe's controversial treaty "an effective tool in the global effort to combat computer-related crime" and "the only multilateral treaty to address the problems of computer-related crime and electronic evidence gathering." White House News Release: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/11/20031117-11.html>

Presidential Candidate Dean Calls For New Controls on Business - After years of government deregulation of energy markets, telecommunications, the airlines and other major industries, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean is proposing a significant reversal: a comprehensive "re-regulation" of U.S. businesses. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59183-2003Nov18.html>

This Week@EMEA

Commission Underlines Success At 2003 ITU World Radiocommunications Conference - The Commission adopted a Communication underlining the successes achieved for Europe at the World Radiocommunications Conference, which completed its work in July 2003 (the WRC-03). The Communication provides an analysis of the impact of WRC decisions on underlying EU policies and identifies necessary implementation actions, based on the outcomes of this regulatory conference that agreed Radio Spectrum access at a global level. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1571|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Electronic Communications Market Is Picking Up, Says Commission Report - The situation in the electronic communications markets finally seems to be stabilising. That is the conclusion of the latest Report on the implementation by the Member States of the EU Electronic Communications Regulatory Package. The Report, which was adopted by the Commission today, points to renewed business and consumer confidence. Broadband (or high-speed) internet access and mobile communications are the main drivers of growth. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1572|0|RAPID&lg=EN



Commissioner Liikanen underlines the need for a common vision shared by nations worldwide at the World Summit on the Information Society - The World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, represents a unique opportunity to build on the Information Society policies being developed in the EU.

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1574|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Speech - Mr Erkki Liikanen Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society "Meeting the road safety challenge of today and tomorrow with global eSafety" -

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/554|0|RAPID&lg=EN

Romanians Become Latest Tech Rivals For Off-Shore Jobs - Rent-a-Coder is one of several Internet sites where the world's computer programmers bid to do free-lance software jobs, mostly for American and European companies eager to "off-shore" a small project at low wages. It's no surprise that the nation that's home to most of these eager-for-work programmers is India, now famed in the U.S. for its Bangalore help desks. But the No. 2 country is, unexpectedly, Romania, despite its small population (23 million) and its history as one of the most insular of all the Eastern-bloc nations.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB106902625737717900,00.html?mod=technology%25Ffeatured%25Fstories%25Fhs> (Paid subscription required)

Homeless Gain Address On Internet - Homeless people in Paris, who frequently have their possessions stolen, now have access to a secure location where they can store their important documents -- cyberspace.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=10&u=/nm/20031114/wr_nm/france_homeless_dc&sid=95573503

Cooped Up Palestinians Turn To Internet - Cooped up in their communities for most of the past three years of fighting, Palestinians have found a way to escape: going online.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=4&u=/ap/20031118/ap_on_hi_te/palestinians_online_escape&sid=95573501

This Week@Asia/Pacific

Wide Swath Of China Is Surfing The Internet - Social, Economic Impact Is Expected as Internet Use Spreads Beyond Big Cities - Internet use is spreading farther than expected in China, reaching smaller, less-developed cities, and would likely be even more popular if not for government controls, according to two surveys. The surveys, conducted by the government-backed Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, are the most extensive on Internet use in China to date. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB10690946059938900,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Full Speed Ahead For Japan Broadband - This summer, Yahoo BB signed up its three millionth customer for services running at eight and 12Mbps. This success was almost entirely down to the aggressive marketing masterminded by parent company Softbank's CEO Masayoshi Son. For the last year, it has been nigh on impossible to take a stroll in the capital without being asked, "Yahoo BB wa ikaga desu ka? (How about Yahoo BB?)," by one of Mr Son's army of street salespeople ready to sign you up and send you on your way with an ADSL modem in a bag. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/3278375.stm>

Australia To Debate Spam Legislation - The federal Government intended to allow religious and political organisations to flood email inboxes with spam and deny other groups the right to respond, the Australian Democrats have said. Proposed anti-spamming laws - barring unsolicited junk email - are due to be debated in Parliament later this month. They exempt religious organisations, registered political parties and charities on condition their spam messages contain only factual information.

<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,7903441%5E15319%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

This Week@US States

In Utah, Public Works Project In Digital - When it comes to the Internet, residents of Utah are taking matters into their own hands. In a 21st-century twist on Roosevelt-era public works projects, Salt Lake City and 17 other Utah cities are planning to build the largest ultrahigh-speed digital network in the country. Construction on the project is scheduled to start next spring - if the cities can raise the money to pull it off. The network would be capable of delivering data over the Internet to homes and businesses at speeds 100 times faster than current commercial residential offerings. It would also offer digital television and telephone services through the Internet.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/17/technology/17utopia.html> (Free registration required)



ITU Press Release - http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2003/30.html

Fixed Wireless As Residential Access Sees Renewed Life - Fixed wireless as a residential broadband access technology is getting a second chance, according to a study released from Strategy Analytics. The research firm found renewed interest in fixed wireless as a residential broadband access technology, particularly in areas where cable and DSL are not readily available. <http://www.reed-electronics.com/electronicnews/index.asp?layout=article&articleid=CA336995&stt=000&industryid=21364&industry=Broadband&rid=0&rme=0&cfd=1>

Hollywood Chief Says Movies Could Be On Internet By 2005 - Americans could be watching newly released movies via the Internet as soon as mid-2005 as the industry speeds development of a secure delivery system, Hollywood's chief lobbyist said. "I really do believe that we will be able to have some — maybe by this time next year — we'll be able to have the beginnings of some really sturdy, protective clothing to put about these movies," Motion Pictures Association of America chief executive Jack Valenti said in an interview. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-11-19-valenti-interview_x.htm

Wi-Fi Is Hot But Users Still Warming To It - Most online consumers are aware of public wireless Internet access hotspots, but only 6 percent have used the service in a public place, according to a report released by Jupiter Research. As a result, it said hotspot providers will have to expand their search for initial return on investment beyond cold cash from consumers. http://cyberatlas.internet.com/markets/wireless/article/0,,10094_3112311,00.html

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