



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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This Week@WASHINGTON, DC

Let Private Sector Fight Piracy, Tech Firms Say - Technology companies said they would fight government efforts to require copyright protections in computers, CD burners, and other products and vowed to work out a solution on their own. High-tech firms including Apple Computer Inc., Microsoft Corp., Dell Computer Corp., and Intel Corp. said that while they were committed to developing copy-protection methods, they did not want Congress to dictate what those methods should be. Movie studios and other media companies have lobbied Congress to stop rampant digital copying of their works, and in some cases have accused Internet providers and other technology firms of profiting from piracy. http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=569&ncid=738&e=1&u=/nm/20030123/tc_nm/industry_piracy_dc

Alliance For Digital Progress (ADP) Website: <http://alliancefordigitalprogress.org/ADP/>

Lawmakers To Urge FCC To Delay Phone Changes - Believing that local phone service competition is at risk, 20 members of the House are expected to urge the Federal Communications Commission today to hold up a major regulatory review until Congress can consider the effect of pending proposals. The 20, including several top leaders in both parties, say in a letter to be delivered to the agency today that they are increasingly concerned that FCC ideas for changing the rules could raise rates and cause "great harm to hundreds of small businesses and millions of American consumers." <http://www.latimes.com/technology/la-fi-letter24jan24,0,6766281.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dtechnology> (Free registration required)

FCC Says Plan Could Help Keep High-Speed Net Prices Low - In an effort to cap off the price of high-speed Internet access, the FCC next month will consider a staff recommendation requiring regional Bell companies to continue leasing their copper phone lines to small broadband competitors. However, the proposal will likely eliminate current requirements that the Bells allow competitors access to their fiber-optic lines at discount prices. Regulators hope that the move will entice the regional phone companies into expanding their infrastructure to underserved areas, which they have been unwilling to do while being required to share their investment with competitors at low rates. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2003-01-23-fcc_x.htm

Bush Seeks Nearly \$60 Billion In New IT Spending - President Bush will ask Congress for \$59 billion in new information technology spending when he submits his 2004 budget next month. The request is \$6 billion more than last year's proposal and reflects the government's increased investments in technology to support homeland security and the war on terrorism, an administration official said this week. The fiscal 2004 budget also focuses on computer security, automation and development of enterprise architectures. The bulk of IT spending—\$37 billion—would be devoted to projects directly related to agency missions. The budget would also provide more than \$4.7 billion in new funding for computer security. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0103/012103h1.htm>

Speech: "Welcome To The Future: The Digital Generation In The Age Of Innovation" - Remarks by Bruce P. Mehlman, Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy United States Department of Commerce - ... "Companies that are intelligently integrating IT into manufacturing, supply chains, customer relations management, sales force training and administrative functions are saving billions of dollars and gaining competitive advantage. The increased productivity wrought by the digital revolution explains, in large part, how we have been able to continue growing American productivity despite the 2001 recession." http://www.ta.doc.gov/Speeches/BPM_030124-DigGen.htm



This Week@EMEA

Speech: Mr Erkki Liikanen Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society "INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN EUROPE" - ITRE Committee of the Industrial Policy Communication (European Parliament) - http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/23/0|RAPID&lg=EN

Speech: Commission President Romano Prodi speaks on industrial policy - In his address to the Conference on Industrial Policy in an enlarged Europe organised by the Enterprise DG, Commission President Romano Prodi reviews the situation in European industry and sets out the path towards balanced and sustainable development. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/18/0|RAPID&lg=EN

6m Western Europeans Have Broadband - By the end of 2002, the number of Western Europeans with broadband internet access at home had climbed to 6 million, or seven per cent, according to a new report from market analysts Forrester Research. As German broadband growth slows down, Southern European markets are driving growth now, with Italy's broadband access rate reaching five per cent. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=14601>

RomTelecom Privitization Imminent - The privatisation of incumbent RomTelecom is to be concluded imminently, possibly by 31 January 2003, according to business daily Nine O'clock. Discussions have been finalised between OTE of Greece, which plans to gain a majority stake in RomTelecom through a proposed cash boost, and the Romanian government, with approval of the contract by the government the only hurdle remaining. Finalisation of the transaction, which will leave OTE the owner of a majority (54 per cent) stake, is expected by mid-February, 2003. After conclusion of the contract with the Romanian authorities, OTE will release its two-year investment plan and development strategy for RomTelecom. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=14611>

Wireless Pioneers - It is one of the most isolated places in Europe. At the northern tip of the European Union, Norrbotten might be sparsely populated but it is far from being cut off from the latest developments in technology. Sweden's frozen land of midday moon and northern lights is home to some of the most connected in the continent. Necessity is turning the people of northern Sweden into wireless pioneers. It is -18 C, mid-afternoon, although the sun has long sunk beneath the horizon. At the invitation of the Invest in Sweden Agency, a government-funded body, 17 journalists from Europe, Japan and the US are racing 10 miles across the frozen landscape on snowmobiles to an unlikely press conference - in a wooden ski hut in the middle of nowhere for a demonstration that video conferencing can be achieved north of the Arctic circle. <http://media.guardian.co.uk/newmedia/story/0,7496,875874,00.html>

Vienna Is Wi-Fi World Champion - With 136 WLAN hot-spots, Vienna is the world champion of wireless internet, according to a ranking by Austrian Wi-Fi provider Metronet. Global metropolises like New York, with 115 hot-spots, and San Francisco, with 102, currently are stuck in second and third place. The recent ranking of the top 20 hot-spot cities in the world, is based on publicly available data of all commercial WISPs that list their hot-spots on their websites. The second European City in the ranking is Stockholm in ninth place, with 50 hot-spots from provider Telia Homerun. The others are Zurich, with 45 from Monsoon and Swisscom, tied in eleventh place together with Washington DC; Graz, Austria with 27 hot spots from Metronet in seventeenth place; and Davos, Switzerland, with 15 hotspots in nineteenth place. <http://www.europemedia.net/shownews.asp?ArticleID=14449>

Commission Organises "Broadband Day" In Brussels To Promote The Availability Of Broadband In Europe - European Enterprise and Information Society Commissioner Erkki Liikanen will host a Broadband Day on January 28th 2003 in Brussels to promote the widespread availability and use of broadband Internet access in Europe. This workshop will bring together high level officials responsible for broadband policy in the Member States, to exchange experiences and thereby stimulate the design of national strategies to ensure widespread availability of broadband throughout the EU. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/121/0|RAPID&lg=EN&display

Telecommunications: European Regulators' Group Meets To Prepare For New EU Telecoms Legislation - The European Regulators Group (ERG) held its second meeting on 23 January 2003 in Amsterdam. The Chairman in particular welcomed representatives from the Candidate Countries entering the EU in 2004, who were present for the first time. The ERG, set up by the new regulatory framework for electronic communications network and services, constitutes the interface between National Regulatory Authorities and the European Commission in this field. It will contribute to the development of the internal market and the consistent application of the new regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services in all Member States. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/119/0|RAPID&lg=EN&display

Swiss Village Holds First Internet Vote - A small Swiss lakeside village made history Sunday with the country's first legally binding Internet vote. Authorities said that 323 voters cast their ballot through the Internet, 370 by mail and just 48 went to the polls. There was a 61.3



percent majority in favor of awarding a taxpayer funded grant to renovate an expensive restaurant, officials said.

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=528&ncid=528&e=8&u=/ap/20030119/ap_on_hi_te/switzerland_internet_voting

Rural Phone Lines Visionary - Nobody would deny the role of telecommunications in development. In fact, one of the measures of backwardness of a country is the paucity or inefficiency of its telephone network. Using that criterion, Kenya is among the least endowed countries in the world. It is estimated that in Kenya, there are less than five telephone lines for every 1,000 people, while countries like South Africa, Egypt and Libya boast at least 10 lines for the same number of people. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200301210814.html>

This Week@Asia/Pac

Cisco Files Intellectual Property Suit Against China Company - Cisco Systems said that it filed a lawsuit against Huawei Technologies, one of the biggest telecom equipment providers in China, alleging that the growing company has copied, misappropriated and infringed on Cisco's intellectual property in its rival line of low-cost networking routers. This is the first intellectual property lawsuit the San Jose networking giant has filed. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/5020814.htm>
THE FULL COMPLAINT: <http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/filing.pdf> (Adobe file)

This Week@Americas/Intl

Ministers Rock, Mitchell And Boudria Announce Recipients Of First-Round Funding For Broadband Business Plan

Development - On behalf of Allan Rock, Minister of Industry, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario), and the Honourable Don Boudria, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, announced \$2.4 million of business plan development funding as the next step toward making high-speed Internet access available to more unserved communities.

<http://www.industriecanada.com/cmb/welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a5d006b972085256cb80044c83c!OpenDocument>

Minister Rock And Secretary Of State Owen Announce Funding For First Nations Communities To Develop Plans For

High-Speed Internet Service - Industry Minister Allan Rock and Secretary of State Stephen Owen announced that proposals representing approximately 156 First Nations communities without high-speed Internet access will receive up to \$30 000 each to develop business plans. The plans will outline how broadband would be implemented in each community covered under the proposals. "I am pleased that First Nations and non-Aboriginal community groups are working together to bring the social, cultural and economic benefits of high-speed Internet access to more Canadians," said Minister Rock. "This phase of the Broadband Pilot Program is a significant step forward in our commitment to deliver broadband services to all Canadian communities, including First Nations, by 2005."

<http://www.industriecanada.com/cmb/welcomeic.nsf/261ce500dfcd7259852564820068dc6d/85256a220056c2a485256cb8005b439b!OpenDocument>

Other Tech Stories Of The Week

Internet Calls Stir Up Static In Phone Fight - A battle is heating up in the phone industry over the growing number of voice calls sent over the Internet, pitting local phone companies against long-distance providers. At issue: whether long-distance companies must pay local phone systems the full fare for sending these Internet-based calls to and from houses and offices. Currently, most long-distance companies do pay such "access fees" since the carriers generally don't own the lines that go into homes and businesses. But long-distance companies say they shouldn't have to pay as much to transmit Internet calls to customers as they pay for calls sent over traditional long-distance networks.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB1043372661755750904,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Because It's There: Putting Everest Online - If the 25-below-zero temperature, howling wind and grim effects of altitude sickness do not make most of those trying to scale Mount Everest feel a world away from home, the near-complete lack of communications on and around Everest surely does. This year, just in time for the 50th anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary's first ascent of Everest, climbers on the mountain will have the chance to connect with the world below by e-mail. That is because Tsering Gyaltsen, the grandson of the only surviving Sherpa to have accompanied Hillary on that famed climb, is planning to build the world's highest Internet cafe at base camp.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/23/technology/circuits/23sher.html> (Free registration required)



A New Wireless Web Link - Phone Firms Testing High-Speed Technology Called EVDO - Inside a white van decked out with computer screens on the back of each seat, two Lucent Technologies Inc. technicians eagerly put their company's new wireless data network through its paces. As the van rolls around a parking lot, one techie taps at a keyboard, and the screens jump from one Web site to another. Even the pages full of connection-clogging photos and graphics pop up at a speed rivaling any desktop computer tethered to the Internet by a cable or a telephone line. For a grand finale, one of the technicians tunes into CNBC via the Internet. A dial-up connection would produce herky-jerky pictures and tinny sounds, but here the financial news channel comes in loud and clear. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30446-2003Jan22.html>

RIAA'S Rosen Set Sights On ISPs - The Recording Industry Association of America wants to go after the companies that provide you with your Internet access. Here are some of the printable reactions since RIAA chief Hilary Rosen presented the proposal last weekend, during which she said Internet service providers would soon "be held accountable" for money the music industry has lost due to file-swapping services: It's stupid. Unethical. Illegal. Insane. "Blaming ISPs for giving these hardened criminals the bandwidth for perpetrating their heinous file-sharing acts is akin to blaming the highway department for creating roads that are used by dope smugglers," said security consultant Robert Ferrell. "It just doesn't make sense." <http://www.wired.com/news/digiwood/0,1412,57326,00.html>
Related News: Record Industry's Top Lobbyist to Quit - Hilary B. Rosen, who as chief executive of the Recording Industry of America fought illegal Internet file sharing, will quit at the end of this year. It will end a tumultuous time for Rosen, in which she became the public face for an industry struggling to protect its market. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30286-2003Jan22.html>

Weighing E-Government - The Internet is changing how we use and learn about government. E-government can improve service delivery and offer greater transparency and accountability. Having the tools in place to measure online public sector performance is key to delivering on that promise.
The past five years have witnessed an extraordinary effort by governments to make services and information available over the web. Virtually all developed nations have launched comprehensive and challenging e-government initiatives. The result, according to a 2001 UN study, is that there are now well over 50,000 government-managed web sites. <http://www.hillwatch.com/publications/internetweighegovhome.htm>

Facts And Stats

German MPs Take To The Net - Europemedia reports that 92 percent of German MPs have a webpage, compared to just 41 per cent in 2001. http://www.nua.com/surveys/index.cgi?f=VS&art_id=905358711&rel=true

Most US Seniors Are Veteran Net Users - eMarketer reports that 46 percent of US seniors have been using the Internet for over five years.
http://www.nua.com/surveys/index.cgi?f=VS&art_id=905358703&rel=true

More Broadband Users In The US - More than 33.6 million Americans accessed the Internet via broadband in December 2002, according to the latest Nielsen-Netratings study. http://www.nua.com/surveys/index.cgi?f=VS&art_id=905358709&rel=true

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