



Government Affairs e-Update



Volume 4, Issue 10
13 August 2004

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Volume 4

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Note: This report is generally issued on Fridays.

This Week@Cisco In Government Affairs

Cisco's E-Update keeps you up to date on the major policy news of the week. Focusing on broadband, education and e-government areas, but covering high-tech and telecom in general, the E-Update is a great source of information for policymakers. To subscribe, send a message with "subscribe" in the subject line to "Subscribe-eUpdate@cisco.com"

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RE-DESIGNED CISCO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS WEBSITE – Please visit www.cisco.com/gov to view our redesigned worldwide government affairs website. You can reach any member of the team at: <http://www.cisco.com/gov/contact/index.html>. Also see Q&A with Laura Ipsen, Vice President of Worldwide Government Affairs, as she looks at 2004 and the issues that Cisco is focusing on: http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/media_info/public_policy_overview.html

This Week@Washington, DC

VOIP VENDORS: REGULATION HINDERS GROWTH – U.S. regulators can play an important role in the spread of VoIP services by showing the rest of the world that the best way to encourage growth is by limiting regulation, according to those who sell VoIP services and equipment.
<http://www.nwfusion.com/news/2004/080904voip.html?nl>

INPUT SOUGHT ON INTEGRATED WIRELESS NETWORK PLAN – Officials developing an interoperable, nationwide wireless communications system want feedback on draft statement of objectives.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/web-iwn-07-27-04.asp>

MILITARY POISED FOR RFID – Defense Department requires the use of passive RFID tags on all materiel bought after Oct. 1 and delivered next year.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-rfid-08-11-04.asp>

FUNDING CUTS WON'T KILL E-GOV - But the administration needs Congress to be smarter about spending decisions, an OMB official said.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-egov-08-09-04.asp>

PONDERING PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE DATA – Homeland Security Department officials are still figuring out the best way to handle sensitive information that the private sector voluntarily submits to the government.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/web-pcII-07-30-04.asp>

This Week@EMEA

THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION – Profiles of the new Commissioners, including German Gunter Verheugen, now in charge of Enterprise and Industry. For most of his political life he has been a foreign policy man, culminating in his present job as the commissioner for enlargement. <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/fcab7df2-ec9d-11d8-b35c-00000e2511c8.html> (Paid subscription required)



EU TO LAUNCH NEW ICT POLICY INSTRUMENT IN 2006 – The European Commission has started work on a new policy instrument to promote the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a key element and multiplier of the Lisbon Strategy. The new instrument is due to replace the current eEurope 2005 Action Plan in 2006.

<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3188/194>

UK PARLIAMENT TO GO WIRELESS – MPs are to get a wireless network allowing remote access to the UK Parliament's databases. The UK Parliament is to set up a wireless IT network giving remote access to data to politicians from both houses and their staff.

<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/45BA737084EBD9FD80256EEB0037EBFA?OpenDocument>

PRESTON TAKES A WIRELESS LEAD – A city in the north of England says its wireless network can offer a blueprint for other local authorities to follow.

<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/A9FE8B09A32F71B380256EE6003DD5D5?OpenDocument>

NORTHERN IRELAND UPGRADES IT – A major IT infrastructure is to be installed across Northern Ireland's government departments as part of the Executive's e-government programme.

<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/16CBAB0AAFF0C6980256EEC0039DD00?OpenDocument>

SCOTLAND OFFERS CONTRACT TO EXTEND BROADBAND TO RURAL & REMOTE AREAS – The Scottish Executive is offering a 60 month contract to secure the extension of affordable broadband services to those parts of Scotland where there is currently no planned commercial coverage.

<http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1559>

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – The Swedish Government recently launched a framework agreement on "Infra Services", with the objective of further developing e-government.

<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3178/194>

WIRELESS BROADBAND NETWORK TO LINK UP PUBLIC BODIES IN POLISH CITY OF SLUPSK – The Polish City of Slupsk is building a broadband wireless network to link up government offices, schools, hospitals, libraries and other public institutions.

<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3186/194>

DUBAI MUNICIPALITY SETS UP COUNTER FOR E-GOVERNMENT SERVICES – Dubai Municipality has recently set up a special counter for e-government services at the Customer Services Centre in the Municipality Head Quarters.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/theuae/2004/August/theuae_August74.xml§ion=theuae

OMAN'S BIG BOOST FOR E-GOVT PLANS – Oman's plan to strengthen its presence in the big world of e-government will get off to a major start with the move to launch a government converged network by this November.

http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story_s.asp?StoryId=59377

This Week@Asia-Pacific/Japan

AUSTRALIA'S VAILE OPENS OFFSHORING DOOR - Trade Minister Mark Vaile has opened the door to the Federal Government departments' offshoring IT services work.

<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,10430064%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE SPYWARE LAWS – The Federal Government will review laws covering spyware as part of a range of e-security initiatives announced by IT Minister Helen Coonan.

<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,10420795%5E15319%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

COMMENTARY: BROADBAND IN BALLARAT? – "Getting broadband to everyone in Australia should be a major concern for businesses and government," says Oliver Descoedres.

<http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/communications/0,2000061791,39155789,00.htm>

PHONING HOME PESOS FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN – A new text-based remittance service offered in the Philippines is said to be the first of its kind in the world. Smart's service capitalizes on the fact that the country is advanced when it comes to the adoption of mobile phone technology - about 30 percent of the population of 84 million owns a cell phone.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/533122.html>

'TEXT TAX' SPARKS FIRST CYBER-PROTEST IN PHILIPPINES – A consumer group said it would lead the first cyber-protest in the Philippines to denounce government plans to tax mobile phone text messaging or SMS, which is more common here than making a phone call.

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Page 2 of 4



http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1509&ncid=738&e=8&u=/afp/20040809/tc_afp/philippines_telecoms_sms

RACE TO LINK WI-FI, CELLPHONES PICKS UP SPEED – A technology -- under development in Japan and elsewhere -- stands to revolutionize telecommunications on two levels. The technology combines the convenience of cellular access with the low cost and high speeds of Wi-Fi, all in a single device.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB109225945175789023,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

This Week@US States

CA ANTI-OFFSHORING BILLS TARGETED BY LOBBYISTS - A business lobbying group warned of "unintended consequences" if a package of anti-offshoring bills pending in the state Legislature is passed, saying proposed regulations aimed at protecting California jobs and privacy rights could raise the cost of state services to taxpayers and invite retaliation by trading partners.

<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/9390256.htm>

CALIFORNIA BILL WOULD EXTEND PRIVACY PROTECTION TO E-MAIL - The proposed legislation would require employers to notify employees about e-mail monitoring, in or out of the office.

http://dclsmtp1.techwire.com/trk/click?ref=7p7waa8wo_0-bex13d8x149286&

NORTH CAROLINA PASSES IT REFORM LEGISLATION – The North Carolina Assembly just passed an act to improve state government information technology planning, adopt standards, make project development more efficient, reduce cost overruns, provide assistance to state agencies and increase accountability.

<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=91085>

ROOM TO ROAM - WiMax puts citywide wireless broadband in sight.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/feat-roam-08-09-04.asp>

This Week@Americas International

MEXICO TO USE PEOPLESOFT FOR TAXES - PeopleSoft signed a \$50 million contract with Mexico's Tax Administration Service.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-psft-08-10-04.asp>

VOIP IS ON HOLD IN MEXICO – Several cable-television companies are ready to offer service using VOIP technology, but talks at the Communications and Transport Ministry to modify their service concessions are at an impasse.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB109218389097488266,00.html?mod=technology%5Ffeatured%5Fstories%5Fhs>

COMMENTARY: WHY WE ALL NEED BROADBAND – The Ontario government isn't saying what is behind its decision to cut funding to two programs designed to bring broadband to rural communities.

<http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040804.gtkapicaug4/BNStory/Technology/>

Other Tech News Of The Week

REPORT: GOV'T HR GOES OUT – Governments around the world are beginning to outsource their human resources functions to the private sector, from payroll to recruitment, according to a new report.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-hr-08-11-04.asp>

REPORT: <http://www.conference-board.org/publications/describe.cfm?id=830> (Purchase required)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES – The first Global ICT Forum for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recently held in Mauritius, considered ways to help least developed countries join the Information Society.

http://www.itu.int/newsroom/press_releases/2004/NP11.html

GROUP TO PROPOSE NEW HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS FORMAT – A group of technology companies including Texas Instruments Inc., STMicroelectronics and Broadcom Corp., said they will propose a new wireless networking standard up to 10 times the speed of the current generation.



http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=569&ncid=738&e=1&u=/nm/20040812/tc_nm/tech_wireless_dc

DSL SHIPMENTS DIP BUT GROWTH IS FORECAST – The global DSL business has hit a speed bump -- down by two million ports in the second quarter -- but it is poised to recover, according to a report released Tuesday by the Dell'Oro Group.

<http://update.internetweek.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/einU0GPLoY0G4X0Cht60Ak>

WHEN IT LIFTS PRODUCTIVITY – Companies should beef up their management practices before focusing on technology.

<http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/links/14393>

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<http://www.cisco.com/gov/archive/eupdates/index.html>

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