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This Week@Cisco In Government Affairs

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Top News Of The Week

High-Speed Surpasses Dial-Up As Top Home Web Access in U.S. - More than half of U.S. Internet users connected through broadband services from home in July, the first time high-speed connections surpassed slower dial-up services, according to new research from Nielsen/NetRatings. About 63 million people connected to the Web through broadband in July, compared with 61.3 million through narrow-band services, the firm said. The broadband connections represented 51% of home Internet users that month, compared with 38% in July of 2003.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB109277939073994046,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

More coverage:

http://news.com.com/Study:+Broadband+leaps+past+dial-up/2100-1034_3-5314922.html,

<http://www.emarketer.com/Article.aspx?1003005>

This Week@Washington, DC

VOIP FIRM TUSSLES WITH STATES OVER PHONE NUMBERS - A dispute between SBC IP Communications and state utility agencies over how to distribute phone numbers promises to shape regulations that are key to the future of the fledgling Net telephony industry. http://news.com.com/VoIP+firm+tussles+with+states+over+phone+numbers/2100-7352_3-5316368.html

DHS, GAO DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON EA - The Government Accountability Office today released a report acknowledging the progress the Homeland Security Department has made in developing an enterprise architecture but criticizing the blue print for lacking sufficient detail. http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/24291-1.html

ANTITRUST LAWYER TAKES HELM AT FTC - As Deborah P. Majoras takes over the Federal Trade Commission, she's expected to build on the broad agenda set by her predecessor, Timothy J. Muris. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64070-2004Aug13.html>

DISA: SYSTEMS TOO 'BRITTLE' FOR NET-CENTRICITY - One of the next big challenges awaiting the Defense Department as it moves toward net-centric operations will be keeping its services flexible, said Richard Hale, engineering technical director for the Defense Information Systems Agency. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/26971-1.html



GAO FINDS THAT SOME PROTECTIVE LAWS HINDER E-HEALTH ADOPTION - Efforts by health care providers to implement IT systems are sometimes hampered by regulations designed to prevent fraud and abuse, the Government Accountability Office has concluded. The Health and Human Services Department has made greater use of health care IT a priority. http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/26965-1.html

The report: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04991r.pdf>

GOVERNMENTS WANT PORTALS THAT DOUBLE-DIP - Leveraging the Internet to improve services for taxpayers is par for the course in state and local governments. <http://newsletter.varbusiness.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eiyc0FaBgP0El0CiNS0AE>

THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR DEDICATED UNLICENSED SPECTRUM BELOW 3GHz - New America Foundation released an Issue Brief and Working Paper examining the potential of unlicensed spectrum in lower/more useful bands.

<http://www.newamerica.net/index.cfm?pg=article&DocID=1899>

http://www.newamerica.net/Download_Docs/pdfs/Doc_File_1548_1.pdf

WHITE HOUSE GOES TO THE BLOGS - Jimmy Orr, the White House's Internet guru, wants the White House Web site to get bloggier.

Two of the most seminal features of blogs are interaction with readers and immediacy. And the White House Web site under Orr, an enthusiastic 37-year-old press office staffer, has already taken some steps in that direction with White House Interactive

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/interactive/and> Ask the White House (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ask/>).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7835-2004Aug17.html>

OPINION: FCC CHOOSES MIDDLE ROAD ON 'NET WIRETAPPING' - The FCC seems to have decided to take a path between the open road and a guarded tunnel when it comes to the Internet, but the jury is still out.

<http://www.nwfusion.com/columnists/2004/081604bradner.html?nl>

A TEXAN'S RACE COULD LEAD TO THE F.C.C. - Becky Armendariz Klein is widely expected to lose her bid for Congress in Texas. But that has not stopped executives and lawyers from the nation's largest telephone and energy companies from pouring money into her campaign.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/17/business/17texas.html> (Free registration required)

\$9 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR RURAL BROADBAND - Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman recently announced that \$9 million in grant funds were available for connecting essential community facilities in rural towns and communities where no broadband service exists. <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=91126>

WHITE HOUSE UPBEAT ON IT - US government departments are managing their IT systems "more professionally" and are making improvements in key areas such as security, the White House has told federal employees.

<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/FEA74DF311D667ED80256EEC003E8947?OpenDocument>

The Report: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/pma/2004_pma_report.pdf (Adobe file)

This Week@EMEA

BT BREAKTHROUGH BOOSTS BROADBAND - A technical breakthrough enabling near-universal access to broadband internet services was announced by BT Group. The telecommunications group, which has invested more than £1bn in the past three years to modify telephone exchanges for high-speed internet networks, said broadband availability would increase from 91 to 99.4 per cent of households within 12 months. <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/5ccfd00c-f17b-11d8-95b8-00000e2511c8.html> (Paid subscription required)

EU INVESTIGATES E-HEALTH - The European Commission is to evaluate different approaches to e-health across the continent - The EU is to investigate "best practices" in e-health across the continent, the European Commission has announced. The aim of the study is to provide the Commission's Information Society Directorate with a report on the impact of e-health services in Europe.

<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/309076D1971806F880256EF500329FF9?OpenDocument>

SWISSCOM AND TA MERGER TALKS COLLAPSE - Swisscom and Austria Telekom ended the latest hopes of a trans-alpine tie-up on Thursday, saying the talks had ended without result. "Both parties agreed on the advantages of a possible merger. Under current circumstances, however, they do not consider it possible to find a solution that would serve the interests of all concerned," Swisscom said, confirming an earlier statement from OIAG, the Austrian state holding company which controls Telekom Austria. <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/1037469a-f139-11d8-95b8-00000e2511c8.html> (Paid subscription required)



ODPM ISSUES E-PLANNING STRATEGY - Local authorities in the UK have a new national strategy for offering electronic planning services. The government has issued a blueprint which aims to provide the UK with a "world class" e-planning service.
<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/9EB5CB7958C7572080256EF2003FD961?OpenDocument>

OFCOM REPORT REVEALS NEW TRENDS IN UK TELEVISION, RADIO AND TELECOMS - Ofcom has published The Communications Market 2004, its report on key trends within the radio, television and telecommunications sectors in 2003-4. The Communications Market report will be published annually. It collates data from numerous sources including Ofcom's own research and provides an interpretation of emerging trends within each sector as well as an analysis of new developments common to the communications market as a whole.
<http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1600>

FRENCH SENATE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR E-GOVERNMENT MINISTER - The Finance Committee of the French Senate is currently undertaking a budgetary control of the State's spending on ICT. Its interim report, presented on 20 July 2004, proposes to raise the profile of e-government in the country by granting the rank of Minister to the government member in charge of State Reform and e-government.
<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3207/194>

LITHUANIA SEEKS E-GOVERNMENT ADVICE IN SOUTH KOREA - A high-level delegation of the Lithuanian Government visited South Korea on July 21-24 to discuss cooperation in the field of e-government and the information society. Among other things, the two countries agreed that experts from South Korea would come to Lithuania to help evaluate IT services and infrastructure development projects financed from European Union structural funds.
<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3211/194>

BASQUE GOVERNMENT APPROVES E-GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLAN - The autonomous government of the Basque Country in Northern Spain approved on 27 July 2004 an e-government strategic plan for the period 2004-2006, which objective is to make the region an e-government leader at Spanish and European level.
<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3210/194>

This Week@Asia-Pacific/Japan

INDO-JAPAN GROUP TO LEVERAGE IT STRENGTHS - THE Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Mr Dayanidhi Maran, met a Japanese delegation led by Mr Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of State in-charge of Information Technology, to discuss ways to leverage each other strengths in the area of IT. <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/2004/08/20/stories/2004082001850600.htm>

AUSTRALIAN FTAS COULD INCREASE OFFSHORE FLOW - POSSIBLE future free trade agreements with countries like India and China could open up further opportunities for offshore firms to take on Australian government IT work, IT and Communications Minister Helen Coonan said. <http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,10498580%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

BIKES BRING INTERNET TO INDIAN VILLAGERS - For 12-year-old Anju Sharma, hope for a better life arrives in her poor farming village three days a week on a bicycle rickshaw that carries a computer with a high-speed, wireless Internet connection.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=528&ncid=528&e=4&u=/ap/20040817/ap_on_hi_te/internet_rickshaw

KOREAN INTERNET POPULACE HITS 30 MILLION - Korea's Internet population reached the 30-million-mark in the first half of 2004, with the penetration rate exceeding 68 percent just 10 years into commercialization, according to government figures released on August 10. Korea's population is estimated at about 48.5 million.
http://www.koreaemb.org/archive/2004/8_2/culture/culture1.asp?fseq=7061

SMALL TELECOM PLAYERS NEED TO BE HEARD - Small telecommunications providers and ISPs are being short-changed by today's self-regulatory regime, and this could damage industry innovation, acting Australian Communications Authority (ACA) chairman Bob Horton told a summit in Sydney last week. The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) and ACA joint self-regulation summit was told that new strategies had to be developed to allow smaller industry players to engage in the regulatory process.
<http://smh.com.au/articles/2004/08/16/1092508352584.html>

THAILAND - CUTTING THE COSTS OF I.T. - The Thai government has lit a fire under the country's IT industry. Thailand's telecommunication costs, among the highest in Asia, will plummet. There are plans to allow competition in the telco provider market.
<http://smh.com.au/articles/2004/08/16/1092508342470.html>



SENATE REPORT CRITICISES AUSTRALIA'S BROADBAND NETWORK - A Senate committee report on competition in high-speed Internet services has criticised the poor state of Australia's broadband network. The Senate Broadband Inquiry Report said the copper network is at the end of its life and the government had done little to ensure Australia had a state of the art broadband network.
<http://www.cio.com.au/index.php?id=31957230&eid=-601>

This Week@Americas/International

ONTARIO INJECTS NORTHERN E-MEDICINE WITH \$5.7 MILLION - Northern Ontarians are used to traveling long distances to see medical specialists but high-speed Internet connections are now bringing doctors north - virtually.
<http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=idgml-d2f1f74c-3689-413d-833b-8657225fe382&News=Daily%20ITwire>

INTRODUCING: BERMUDA'S DIRECTOR OF E-GOVERNMENT - Government has announced a new position under the Ministry of Tourism, Telecommunications and E-Commerce – that of Director of E-Government.
<http://www.theroyalgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040809/BUSINESS/108090134>

This Week@US States

WI-FI EMERGES AS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ALTERNATIVE IN FLA. - Public access Wi-Fi hot spots have become a key communications alternative in Florida in the wake of Hurricane Charley, with the local franchisee of Panera Bread Co. reporting a 50% increase in traffic for the free Wi-Fi service it offers in 34 outlets in the state.
<http://www.computerworld.com/mobiletopics/mobile/wifi/story/0,10801,95362,00.html?from=homeheads>

A TEXAS DISTRICT BANKS ON WIRELESS UBIQUITY - The convergence of schools and the Internet has created promise and pitfalls by opening students to a vast pool of instantly accessible - and sometimes questionable - information. Now some schools are taking the technology further, deploying wireless networks to make the Internet an even more integral part of day-to-day learning.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/19/technology/circuits/19hous.html> (Free registration required)

CALIFORNIA URGED TO USE OPEN SOURCE, VOIP - The Governor may terminate California's reliance on proprietary software and traditional telephone systems, if a recently published state report is heeded. A body of independent auditors and experts recommended last week that the state consider open-source software and voice over Internet Protocol telephony as two measures to cut costs. The suggested measures are a small part of the voluminous California Performance Review, released Aug. 2. <http://news.com.com/2100-7344-5309476.html>

VIRGINIA COUNTY LOOKS AFAR TO FILL VACANT OFFICES - Fairfax County is hoping to counter the exodus of U.S. jobs to other countries by persuading overseas companies to open branches in Fairfax. The county's Economic Development Authority opened offices this summer in the high-tech hubs of Bangalore, India, and Tel Aviv to recruit foreign firms eyeing U.S. markets, hoping that they will help fill millions of square feet of empty office space in Fairfax and establish a trend in outsourcing. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9608-2004Aug17.html>

COLORADO GOVERNOR APPOINTS MEMBERS TO THE STATEWIDE INTERNET PORTAL AUTHORITY - The Statewide Internet Portal Authority, established this year by Senate Bill 04-244, is responsible for developing the officially recognized Internet portal that will provide Colorado citizens one-stop access to state products and services.
<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=91112>

Other Tech News Of The Week

SUPPORTERS OF COMMUNITY WIRELESS NETWORKS GATHER - Federal regulators are working on new rules governing use of the airwaves to give more people access to high-speed Internet and other wireless technologies, and advocates for free access want to be sure their concerns aren't ignored. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/wireless/data/2004-08-19-comm-wireless-summit_x.htm

AT&T, CABLE PROVIDERS JOIN FORCES - AT&T Corp. is teaming up with cable companies nationwide to sell cable high-speed Internet access, further heating up competition in the crowded telecommunications arena and dealing a potential blow to rival local phone companies. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB109286551699295180,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

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PEW REPORT: ONLINE ACTIVITY AND LIFE - The Internet and Daily Life: Many Americans use the Internet in everyday activities, but traditional offline habits still dominate. http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/131/report_display.asp

OECD TASK FORCE ON SPAM - The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is taking the fight against unsolicited commercial e-mail to Asia next month, where it will hold a meeting to discuss the priorities for its newly created task force on spam, it announced Thursday.
<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1173470865&eid=-180>

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

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