



Government Affairs e-Update



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This Week@Cisco In Government Affairs

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This Week@Washington, Dc

FCC Press Release: FCC Moves To Allow More Opportunities For Consumers Through Voice Services Over The Internet - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A1.pdf (Adobe document)

Chairman Powell: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A2.pdf

Commr. Abernathy: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A2.pdf

Commr. Copps: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A4.pdf

Commr. Martin: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A6.pdf

Commr. Adelstein: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243868A5.pdf

Thorny Issues Await FCC On Internet Phones - The effort to write the rules for Internet telephone service begins this week, and whether it succeeds may ultimately come down to a matter of money. On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission is set to consider approving a notice of proposed rulemaking, the first step in a lengthy process of writing regulations for Internet-based phone services. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/09/technology/09rules.html> (Free registration required)

Commentary: For three years now, FCC Chairman Michael Powell has identified the problems inherited from the Clinton years and vowed to "clear away the regulatory underbrush to bring greater certainty and regulatory simplicity to the market." But thanks to a lack of White House leadership, and some political skullduggery, the Bush Administration has ended up enforcing what is essentially Al Gore's telecom policy. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107645762434126225,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Telecom: FCC Chairman Powell Urges Industry To Adopt "Net Freedom" Principles - FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell issued a challenge to high-speed Internet providers in early February at the Silicon Flatirons Conference in Boulder, Colorado. Powell urged adoption of voluntary "Net Freedom" principles and urged consumers to challenge their own providers to ensure their expectations are being met. <http://www.ita.org/isec/pubs/e20042-09.pdf> (Adobe file)

Politics Could Overshadow Legal Hurdles Of A Merger - As it tries to acquire the Walt Disney Company, the Comcast Corporation faces hurdles in Washington that are less legal than political, media analysts said. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/12/business/media/12regs.html>

FULL COVERAGE: <http://www.nytimes.com/business/businessspecial/> (Free registration required)



Senators Try To Break Impasse On Internet Taxes - A bipartisan coalition in the U.S. Senate plans to try to break the logjam over whether the cost of going online will be free of taxes. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30201-2004Feb10.html>

Bush Report Offers Positive Outlook On Jobs - Wading into an election-year debate, President Bush's top economist said the outsourcing of U.S. service jobs to workers overseas is good for the nation's economy. Mankiw's defense of the "offshoring" of jobs has been seconded by other economists and business leaders. A recent study by the management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. also concluded that business investment in service sector jobs abroad will ultimately help the U.S. economy. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26982-2004Feb9.html>

Hastert Rebukes Bush Adviser - Speaker Challenges Mankiw's Statements on U.S. Job Loss - House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (Ill.), one of the nation's highest-ranking Republicans, rebuked the chairman of President Bush's Council of Economic Advisers yesterday for calling the transfer of U.S. service jobs overseas "just a new way to do international trade." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35306-2004Feb12.html>

Economist's 'Outsourcing' Comments Anger Some Lawmakers - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A30194-2004Feb10.html>

Economy Is Improving, Fed Chairman Says - Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said that the economy has turned the corner and is now expanding strongly, which should fuel a pickup in hiring "before long." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A34570-2004Feb11.html>

Seattle Group's Survey Gauges Outsourcing Fears - A Web survey released by a Seattle labor group suggests technology workers are battered by overseas competition for their jobs and want government intervention. http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2001856043_offshore12.html

Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Effort Proceeds Unevenly - A national assessment of the country's critical infrastructure is taking shape, but the process has been hampered by uneven development across industry sectors and resistance from some private companies, according to government and industry officials. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/020904c1.htm>

Commerce Department Issues Security Standard - The Commerce Department issued a new standard to help federal agencies secure their computer networks, introducing significant changes in how the government protects information. <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RSYO500UPQ4GGQSNDBCSKHY?articleID=17603228>

This Week@Emea

UK Trade And Industry Broadband Report - The Government has set targets for both the competitiveness and the extensiveness of the UK broadband market. However, in the short term there may be a trade-off between these goals, and focussing on rolling out broadband may be at the expense of competition. <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmtrdind/321/32102.htm>

Speech: Mr Erkki Liikanen Member of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society "Reinforcing eDemocracy" eDemocracy Seminar Brussels, 12 February 2004. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/71/0/RAPID&lg=EN

UK Companies Failing To Claim R&D Tax Break - UK companies are failing to claim hundreds of millions of pounds worth of research and development tax credits because the rules are too complicated, it was claimed. <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1075982508568&p=1012571727242> (Paid subscription required)

This Week@Asia/Pacific

U.S., Australia Agree On Free-Trade Pact - The United States and Australia announced that they concluded a free-trade agreement, one of the biggest in a series of two-way deals the Bush administration is pursuing with a number of countries aimed at tearing down barriers to international commerce. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24182-2004Feb8.html>

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Australia Leads Cyber Crackdown - Australia is leading a global sweep of the internet in a major crackdown on scam sites. <http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,8640120%5E15319%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

India Dismisses Offshoring Fears - Despite Western backlash against job outsourcing, the Indian software industry was in a buoyant mood as it gathered for its annual conference in Bombay. The Indian software industry is optimistic as the pace of its expansion accelerates. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/3472491.stm>

This Week@Us States

CA PUC To Look Into Regulating Net Telephony - California regulators agreed to investigate whether companies using Internet technology to handle phone calls should be regulated — and, if so, with how heavy a hand. <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-voip12feb12,1,6125843.story> (Free registration required)

Commentary: CA PUC regulator's radical VOIP vision: Get out of the way - Sometimes, when technology is racing ahead of government's ability to keep up, the best thing for regulators to do is simply step aside and watch closely, rather than risk standing in the way of progress. <http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/8244582p-9175390c.html>

Mayors Want More Direct Homeland Security Funding - The federal government should bypass state bureaucracies and provide more money directly to local cities so they can pay for homeland security needs, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Homeland Security Task Force said. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021104c1.htm>

D.C. Police, EMS To Get Broadband - Washington, D.C., is launching the nation's first broadband data network for emergency crews, an important step toward arming rescuers with the latest communication technology. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2004-02-11-dc-ems-broadband_x.htm

Michigan Net Ballots Get Vote Of Approval - The only U.S. presidential contest in 2004 to use Internet voting was completed without a hitch, the Michigan Democratic Party said. Nearly one-third of the votes cast in Michigan's caucus arrived through the Internet. <http://news.com.com/2100-1028-5156089.html>

California Taking Closer Look At E-Vote Security - CA Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced extra requirements for computerized voting machines in next month's election to address e-voting security concerns until paper printouts can be provided. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2004-02-07-calif-evote-concern_x.htm

Touchscreen Ballots Don't Have To Be Recounted, Official Claims - The Florida Department of State has notified elections supervisors that touchscreen ballots don't have to be included during manual recounts because there is no question about how voters intended to vote. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2004-02-12-florida-counts-good-enough_x.htm

Website For Canadian Drugs Urged - Californians could go to a state-sponsored website to shop for cheaper prescription drugs from Canada under a bill introduced in the state Assembly. <http://www.latimes.com/technology/la-me-drugs13feb13,1,2926123.story?coll=la-headlines-technology> (Free registration required)

Workforce Training: Almost Half of States Fund Worker Training and Employment Through Employer Taxes and Most Coordinate with Federally Funded Programs. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-282> (Adobe document)

Other Tech News Of The Week

Internet Everywhere? Wi-Fi Extends Internet's Range To All Corners Of The House -- Including the Bathroom. Call it Wi-Fi's dirty little secret. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107176234182118800,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

What's On With Offshoring - According to a study from the Weissman Center for International Business at Baruch College and The Paaras Group, the number of companies that say they use offshore services because of the access to skilled labor declined from 63% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. <http://www.emarketer.com/news/article.php?1002659&trackref=edaily>



A Second Act For E-Learning - You remember e-learning: expensive, frustrating, disappointing. And yet, even companies that were burned by their first encounter haven't given up. Spending on e-learning was up 22 percent last year, as companies treat e-learning strategically, with a greater attention to ROI and more awareness of how to use it--and how not to use it.
<http://www.workforce.com/section/11/feature/23/62/89/index.html>

E-Data Telecom: Jupiter Research Reports U.S. Broadband Adoption Will Grow To 46 Million By 2008 -
<http://www.itaa.org/isee/pubs/e20042-06.pdf> (Adobe file)

Covad Plans To Launch Internet Telephony Service - San Jose broadband provider Covad Communications has joined the parade of companies that will offer Internet phone service this year. <http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/7910328.htm>

Online-Ad Revenue Sets Record After Long Slump - Online-advertising revenue in the U.S. surged to a record \$2.2 billion in the fourth quarter, beating the mark set during the Internet bubble, according to preliminary estimates from an industry trade group.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107660734619728395,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Telecom Spending On The Rise - Spending on telecommunications services in 2004 is likely to go beyond the \$1 trillion mark for the first time, according to market research firm IDC. <http://news.com.com/2100-1037-5156622.html>

Wi-Fi Market Surges On Consumer Sales - The overall revenue for Wi-Fi wireless networking gear was up more than 55 percent in the fourth quarter to \$751.9 million, Synergy Research Group said in a report. Revenue was up about 40 percent, to \$2.5 billion, for the year.
http://news.com.com/2100-7351_3-5156832.html?tag=nefd_top

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