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Note: This report is generally issued on Fridays.

This Week@Cisco in Government Affairs

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OP-ED - OPTIONS DRIVE INNOVATION, CREATE JOBS - MANDATORY EXPENSING PLAN WOULD HURT AN AILING ECONOMY - By Craig R. Barrett, John T. Chambers and Scott McNealy - As the Financial Standards Accounting Board (FASB) prepares its proposal on mandatory expensing of employee stock options, it's time to revisit the question of if -- and how -- stock options should be expensed. Of particular importance is to look at the long-term implications of the decision at hand. The U.S. economy is struggling to regain a strong footing, to create and sustain new jobs -- all while an increasingly educated global workforce has become more competitive and available at one-third to one-fifth the cost of some U.S. workers. <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/opinion/8076224.htm>

This Week@Washington, Dc

FCC To Access Whether Broadband Networks Are Being Made Available To All Americans - The FCC launched an inquiry into whether "advanced telecommunications capability," or broadband, is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. As broadband networks become vital to the economy, healthcare, education, and other areas impacting the American public, the Notice of Inquiry (NOI) adopted will analyze the various market, investment and technological trends of broadband deployment. http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-244841A1.pdf (Adobe file)

Review Of Phone Ruling Sought - Demonstrating unusual bipartisanship, leaders of the House Judiciary Committee on asked the attorney general to seek U.S. Supreme Court review of the telephone competition rules overturned last week by a federal appeals court. <http://www.latimes.com/business/printedition/la-fi-phones12mar12,1,75104.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-business> (Free registration required)

Powell Calls For New Phone Pacts - Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael K. Powell warned of potential disruptions in local phone service for millions of consumers in the wake of a federal court decision that threw out the agency's phone competition rules earlier this month. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48235-2004Mar10.html>

Powell's speech:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-244737A1.pdf

Martin's speech:

<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/martin/documents/NARUC3-8-04.pdf>



FCC Seeks Public Comments On Internet Phone Regulations - The FCC released draft guidelines that it will use to decide what rules, if any, will govern companies providing Internet telephone services. http://news.com.com/2100-7352_3-5172220.html?tag=nefd_top
Bush Administration Urges China To Drop Wireless Rules - In an unusual letter signed by three U.S. cabinet secretaries, the Bush administration urged China to drop a regulation that would limit the import of wireless technologies ranging from pagers to laptop computers. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107834967147845707,00.html>

Technology Executives Request More Spectrum For Wi-Fi

- With the boom in Wi-Fi growing by the day, Silicon Valley executives seized the chance on Monday to make sure that Uncle Sam will make the right policy moves for the wireless future. http://news.com.com/2100-7351_3-5171626.html

FCC Members Vow To Challenge Court's Decision On Rules - Three FCC commissioners said that they will appeal to the Supreme Court a court decision that overturned key provisions of the FCC's new telecommunications rules. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107825809785044363,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

Norquist Taking The Heat On Broadband Telecom Feud Puts Conservative Scholars In Unusual Position - A feud over telecommunications policy has erupted among leading conservatives that paints Grover Norquist, an informal adviser to the Bush administration, as a friend of telecommunications regulation and puts others in the unusual position of siding with Democratic senators. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6925-2004Feb25.html>

Computer Firms Break Rank With Industry On Regulations - Eleven of the nation's top computer security companies are forming a new organization to lobby on cyber-security issues in Washington, breaking ranks with the broader technology industry in hopes that a more cooperative approach to protecting the nation's critical information infrastructure will avert heavy-handed regulation by Congress and the White House. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3455-2004Feb24.html> (Free registration required)

White House Praises Agencies' Advances In E-Government - While only two federal agencies have fully met the Bush administration's strategic goals for e-government, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave a generally positive review of the work in a report to Congress. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/031004d1.htm>

Debate Over Exporting Jobs Raises Questions On Policies

There is certainly no shortage of political heat surrounding the subject of jobs migrating abroad. On the campaign trail, Senator John Kerry routinely decries "Benedict Arnold" bosses. And N. Gregory Mankiw, chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, faced an uproar after he said earlier this month that offshore outsourcing was a good thing for the economy in the long run. <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/23/technology/23neco.html>

Lawmakers Offer Advice On Government Telecom Deal - Senior officials from the General Services Administration (GSA) testified before Congress about their plan for a telecommunications contract for the federal government. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/022604h1.htm>

This Week@Emea

European, U.S. Officials Reach Deal On Satellite Systems - The European Union and the United States agreed to an arrangement that will allow Europe to launch its own global satellite positioning system without interrupting the service of the U.S. system already in place. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107773262896638982,00.html> (Paid subscription required)

European Parliament To Vote On Intellectual Property Law

The European Parliament is set to vote Tuesday on a directive that would implement tough new measures to protect companies' intellectual property rights. http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=8&u=/nm/20040308/wr_nm/tech_eu_ip_dc&sid=95573503

EU Presidency To Propose Deal On Patents - The Irish government, as president of the European Union, will present a compromise proposal in a bid to end three decades of bickering over setting up a European Union-wide patent regime. <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1078381673106&p=1029842740356&ExpIgnore=true> (Paid subscription required)



BT To Offer Free Internet Calls - BT has announced its strategy for providing free calls over the internet for consumers - while still making money from the venture and restricting the cannibalisation of its fixed-line telephone services.
<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1078381718961&p=1012571727260&ExpIgnore=true> (Paid subscription required)

This Week@Asia/Pacific

India Resists U.S. Entreaties Over 'Outsourcing,' Trade - India is resisting U.S. efforts to negotiate ways to lower trade barriers in order to defuse the debate about "outsourcing" U.S. jobs to other countries. <http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107868697424448503,00.html>
(Paid subscription required)

China Brushes Aside Intel's Wapi Protest - The developers of a controversial Chinese standard for wireless data networks on Thursday waved aside a decision by Intel, the world's largest computer chip producer, to shun their technology. "This could be a critical decision that Intel is making. China is such a strategic market," said an official of the state-backed group promoting China's new standard, known as Wapi. "I think Intel should calm down."
<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1078381703570&p=1012571727260&ExpIgnore=true> (Paid subscription required)

This Week@Americas/International

Nearly Three-Fourths Of Chileans Pay Taxes Online - Almost 70 percent of Chilean companies and self-employed individuals filed their taxes online last year through a government Web site, far exceeding the rate in the United States, where only 40 percent of people and companies filed their yearly income-tax forms online last year.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=10&u=/nm/20040301/wr_nm/tech_chile_dc&sid=95573503

This Week@Us States

Broadband Usage Poised To Eclipse Narrowband In Largest U.S. Markets - comScore Networks released an analysis of broadband penetration at both the national and local market levels based on consumer behavior in the fourth quarter of 2003. <http://www.comscore.com/press/release.asp?press=439>
News story: <http://news.com.com/2100-1038-5172107.html>

California Lawmaker Introduces Rfid Bill - A California state lawmaker introduced a bill meant to address consumer privacy concerns related to the commercial use of radio frequency identification technology. http://news.com.com/2100-1014_3-5164457.html

Governors Speak Out Against Internet Tax Bill - Three governors went on record opposing congressional efforts to ban taxes on Internet access, because it would cost their states billions of dollars in annual revenue.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=4&u=/nm/20040223/tc_nm/tech_taxes_dc&sid=95573503

California, New York Tax Forms Aim At Internet Purchases - New York and California are increasing their efforts to get residents to pay sales taxes on their Internet and other out-of-state purchases.
http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=3&u=/ap/20040304/ap_on_hi_te/internet_sales_tax&sid=95573501

Other Tech News Of The Week

'Naked DSL': Qwest To Offer Web Service Separate From Phone - Among the biggest drawbacks to switching your local phone service or going all wireless is that you can lose your high-speed connection to the Internet in the process. But that's about to start changing. Beginning this week, Qwest Communications International Inc., which provides local phone connections in 14 Western and Mountain states, will become the first regional Bell company to let customers buy high-speed digital-subscriber-line, or DSL, Internet service from it even if they

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get their local phone service elsewhere. It is nicknamed "naked DSL," and it is a welcome change to some consumer advocates.
http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107766524136738263,00.html?mod=technology_main_whats_news

Satellite Seeks Broadband Re-Entry - Despite ongoing technical and economic reservations, satellite companies including DirecTV-parent Hughes and refinanced start-up **WildBlue** are preparing risky plans to re-enter the broadband business--a reversal that signals they can't afford to sit out the race. http://news.com.com/2100-1034_3-5172088.html

At&T Sues Microsoft Over Patent On Internet Telephony - AT&T asked a jury to award at least \$90 million in damages from Microsoft as a patent dispute over technology to speed Internet transmission of human voices went to trial in New York.
http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/businesstechnology/2001865510_attsuit26.html

Microsoft To Launch Plan To Control Spam - Microsoft Corp. announced it is launching a system to make it harder for spammers to disguise their locations, part of a broad initiative that company Chairman Bill Gates said would ease the scourge that is choking e-mail communication. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3385-2004Feb24.html>

Verisign Sues Iann For Allegedly Unfair Business Practices

The Internet company VeriSign on Thursday sued the body that oversees the Internet's domain-name system, accusing that system of unfairly preventing VeriSign from developing new services for the Internet. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9415-2004Feb26.html>

Trade Groups To Challenge Laws Against 'Outsourcing' Jobs

Trade groups have formed a coalition to defeat legislation aimed at curbing the "outsourcing" of jobs to other countries by government contractors and limiting the number of visas for non-American workers.

http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107809268846542227,00.html?mod=technology_main_whats_news

Understanding Outsourcing: An Online Journal Roundtable

Outsourcing, once a buzzword of the New Economy, has for some U.S. workers evolved into an Orwellian totem of the jobless recovery. The white-collar knowledge work promised for those who saw their manufacturing jobs move abroad is now also vanishing, critics say, and they contend the consequences for the U.S. economy could be disastrous.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107782402226340185,00.html?mod=technology%5Ffeatured%5Fstories%5Fhs>

One-Fourth Of People Access Internet Away From Home, Work

About one-fourth of Internet users are accessing the online world outside the traditional settings of home or work, according to a survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=2&u=/ap/20040308/ap_on_hi_te/internet_settings&sid=95573501

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**Corporate Headquarters**

Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-4000
800 553-NETS (6387)
Fax: 408 526-4100

European Headquarters

Cisco Systems International BV
Haarlerbergpark
Haarlerbergweg 13-19
1101 CH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www-europe.cisco.com
Tel: 31 0 20 357 1000
Fax: 31 0 20 357 1100

Americas Headquarters

Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-7660
Fax: 408 527-0883

Asia Pacific Headquarters

Cisco Systems, Inc.
Capital Tower
168 Robinson Road
#22-01 to #29-01
Singapore 068912
www.cisco.com
Tel: +65 317 7777
Fax: +65 317 7799

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