



Government Affairs e-Update



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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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This Week@Washington, DC

FCC Chief Blogs To Tech Industry – U.S. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell has started his own Web log, or blog, to reach out to the high-tech community and bypass the scores of Washington lobbyists who typically skulk around his office. http://news.com.com/FCC+chief+blogs+to+tech+industry/2100-1036_3-5264405.html?tag=nefd.hed

Powell: New Phone Competition Rules Soon – The Federal Communications Commission is close to creating temporary telephone competition rules that could help AT&T, MCI and others stay in the local phone business, Chairman Michael Powell indicated here Monday. <http://news.com.com/2100-1037-5266582.html>

Ipv6: Defense's New Mechanism – The federal government is spending billions on advanced technologies—including wireless—to combat terror and improve efficiencies. <http://newsletter.varbusiness.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eiLV0FaBgP0Elt0CesM0Ah>

Army Plans Network Fortification – Army officials expect to spend millions of dollars as early as next year to fortify networks that are increasingly becoming the targets of cyber-attacks, according to service and industry officials. <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0705/news-army-07-05-04.asp>

DHS Awards \$30m Consulting Deal – Homeland Security Department officials awarded a \$30 million contract to a management consulting and information technology firm based in Silver Spring, Md., to help improve information sharing between the department and other federal agencies. <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0712/web-dhsconsult-07-14-04.asp>

Cloudy IT Spending Forecasts – A decade of federal IT spending growth, fueled most recently by ramped-up homeland security and defense efforts, may be tapering off, according to a newly released study. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52164-2004Jul15.html>

Phishers Face More Jail Time – President Bush signed into law a bill that stiffens criminal penalties for identity thieves, including those who purloin information electronically using phishing attacks. <http://update.internetweek.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eiKa0GPLoY0G4X0CeoL0Ab>



U.S. Election Assistance Commission Proposes E-Voting Options – Using independent experts and permanent advisory panels are among the recommendations in a new report on how to improve the security of many electronic voting systems going into place around the country.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0628/web-evote-06-29-04.asp>

Report: “Recommendations for Improving Reliability of Direct Recording Electronic Voting Systems”

http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/voting_systems_final_recommendations.pdf

Federal Court Rules In Favor Of Paper Trail Reform In E-Voting – A federal judge recently ruled that California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's requirements for additional security on electronic voting machines does not violate federal or state law.

<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=90758>

Education Pushes Grants Online – Accepting grant applications online will soon become a standard way of doing business for Education Department officials. <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0712/web-grants-07-12-04.asp>

Vision Of Newt – Each morning millions of Americans should awaken and log on to a secure, personal Web page featuring their individual medical record. It would track health status -- weight, height, blood pressure, maladies and medications -- and deliver reminders and advice where appropriate for managing their diseases and conditions, according to Newt Gingrich.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45231-2004Jul12.html>

Report On Healthcare: National Strategy Needed to Accelerate the Implementation of Information Technology, by David A. Powner, director, information technology, before the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and the Census, House Committee on Government Reform. GAO-04-947T, July 14.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04947t.pdf>

This Week@EMEA

Ofcom Sets Out Long-Term Approach To Further Development Of Broadband – Ofcom, the media and telecommunications industry's regulator, has outlined details of its long-term approach to increasing broadband adoption in the UK.

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/link?131h>

Europe Considers Easing Rules For Trading Airwaves – European cell phone service providers may soon have an easier time selling or trading spectrum, a fact that promises to roil the continent's mature cell phone market and open it up to foreign prospecting.

http://news.com.com/Europe+mulls+spectrum+trading/2100-1037_3-5271416.html?tag=nefd.hed

European Co-Operation To Secure Borders – Home Affairs ministers from the five largest EU member states have agreed on closer co-operation on data sharing and biometric development to harmonise efforts within Europe on terrorism, police intelligence and border security.

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/link?131g>

EU Research Offers New Opportunities For SMEs In Enlarged Europe – At an event in Estonia today the European Commission highlighted the opportunities for SMEs through the EU 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6 2002-2006), which can help Eastern European SMEs achieve their full potential. From the four-year €20 billion FP6 budget, €2.3 billion is given to SMEs allowing them to access funding, hands-on advice and guidance on accessing EU programmes and leverage research into successful innovation and commercial applications.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/892&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

Towards A Global Partnership In The Information Society: Translating Principles Into Actions – The European Commission's view on how to translate principles agreed by UN Member States in Geneva in December 2003 into action to create a worldwide information society are set out in a Commission Communication issued today. This Communication outlines priorities and proposes actions for the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), which will flesh out a plan of action agreed in Geneva and is to culminate in a WSIS summit meeting in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/898&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>



This Week@Asia-Pacific/Japan

Government Outsourcing: The Australian Perspective - Like many early enthusiasts for mega-outsourcing deals who watched in dismay as cost overruns mounted into the millions and relationships with outsourcers soured, the Australian government has learned to know better.
<http://www.cio.com.au/index.php/id;1050828973;fp;16;fpid;0>

Australian Tech Group Shares Its Goals With Policymakers – The federal elections have yet to be called, but IT industry lobby groups are already pushing their wish lists at both political parties. Top of the agenda for the heavy-hitters of the IT lobby are procurement, commercialisation of intellectual property, offshore outsourcing and broadband.
<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,10120030%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html>

Oracle To Enhance And Export China R&D – Oracle Corp., the world's second-most valuable software company, is looking to pump up its research capacity in China, an executive said on Friday, hoping to plug its fastest-growing market into a global network.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A54153-2004Jul16.html?nav=headlines>

Japan School Kids To Be Tagged With RFID – The rights and wrongs of using radio frequency identification (RFID) tags on humans have been debated since the tracking tags reached the technological mainstream. Now, school authorities in the Japanese city of Osaka have decided the benefits outweigh the disadvantages and will now be chipping children in one primary school.
http://news.com.com/Japan+school+kids+to+be+tagged+with+RFID+chips/2100-1012_3-5266700.html?tag=nefd.top

Commentary: Seoul Search – South Korea likes to think of itself as the world's most advanced internet market, with 75 per cent of households subscribing to broadband services. But its government sometimes takes a heavy-handed approach to regulating the country's thriving cyberspace.
http://search.ft.com/search/article.html?id=040714000941&query=Broadband&vsc_appId=totalSearch&state=Form

This Week@US States

Local Tech Companies Offshoring – A study on off shoring released Thursday found that 94 percent of the Bay Area's largest semiconductor and software companies are sending work overseas
<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/9168616.htm>

Report: Your Tax Dollars At Work...Offshore – This report is the first systematic national analysis of offshore outsourcing of state government work, focusing on information technology and food-stamp call centers. While “off shoring” by the private sector – especially high-tech companies – has received extensive media attention, a growing number of offshore contractors are also gearing up to capture contract work from state governments.
Full Study: http://www.washtech.org/wt/report/TaxDollarsAtWork/offshoring_finaltext_pdf.pdf
Executive Summary: http://www.washtech.org/wt/report/TaxDollarsAtWork/offshoring_execsum_finalpdf.pdf

New Hampshire Divided Over VoIP Taxes - U.S. Senator John Sununu (R-N.H.) is pushing for a vote by the U.S. Senate on legislation that would block federal and state jurisdictions from taxing VoIP. Meanwhile there are moves back in his home state to do the opposite -- tax VoIP.
<http://update.internetweek.com/cgi-bin4/DM/y/eiI40GPLoY0G4X0CeYZ0Ag>

States Lag In Gearing Up For No Child Left Behind Law - All but five states are behind schedule in overhauling their education policies to meet demands of the federal No Child Left Behind act, according to a new national survey.
<http://www.stateline.org/stateline/?pa=story&sa=showStoryInfo&id=385174>

Commentary: States Have Role To Play In New Global Challenge - The latest commentary from Raymond Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors Association, explores the role of state government in making the U.S. economy competitive and successful in the world market.
<http://www.stateline.org/stateline/?pa=story&sa=showStoryInfo&id=385172>



This Week@Americas International

RFID Chips Implanted In Mexican Law-Enforcement Workers - Though still under consideration for use on humans in the U.S., chips have been implanted in Mexico's Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha and 160 of his staff.
<http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=23900982>

Mexico's Telmex Beefs Up Broadband As Competition Looms – Mexican phone carrier Telefonos de Mexico SA (TMX) said Friday it continues to grow its broadband Internet capabilities as part of an effort to evolve in a changing telecommunications market.
<http://online.wsj.com/wsagate?subURI=%2Farticle%2F0%2C%2CBT%5FCO%5F20040716%5F005286%2Demail%2C00%2Ehtml&nonsubURI=%2Farticle%5Femail%2F0%2C%2CBT%5FCO%5F20040716%5F005286%2DIVjgoNilaV3mpymaqiHbquBm4%2C00%2Ehtml> (Paid Subscription Required)

Other Tech News Of The Week

Cisco Kid Rides Again – Back from the dot-com bust, John Chambers is seeking redemption with a new growth plan: Shake up the \$750 billion telecom industry.
<http://www.fortune.com/fortune/subs/article/0,15114,662673-1,00.html>

Broadband Energizes The Internet – Forrester reports that broadband is the force behind a new wave of technology adoption and online activity.
<http://www.emarketer.com/Article.aspx?1002935>

Common Sense Should Be Applied To Broadband Gap – Langberg calls the "broadband gap" the overblown concern that other countries are deploying high-speed Internet access faster than the United States. The problem is one of demand, not supply.
<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/business/technology/9168618.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>

Living The Broadband Life – Debra Gibb has had a high-speed Internet connection in her home longer than anyone she knows. In late 1996, when Time Warner Cable began trials here for its cable modem service, Ms. Gibb leapt at the chance to become one of the first residential broadband users in the nation. She was beta tester No. 6 in San Diego, she said.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/15/technology/circuits/15broa.html?ex=1090848870&ei=1&en=44eeb32855f93b3e>

The Revolution Will Not Be Telephoned – it will be VoIP'ed! Voice over Internet Protocol is the future of communications, according to those surveyed by Spirent Communications and *Telephony Magazine*.
<http://www.emarketer.com/Article.aspx?1002924>

New Wi-Fi Standard Strengthens Security – Wi-Fi security specification, 802.11i, received final approval from a standards group, with improvements to the quality and speed of wireless networks expected to follow.
http://news.com.com/Wi-Fi+security+standard+sealed+and+delivered/2100-1039_3-5248275.html

CDT Releases Report On Icann And Internet Governance – In the context of ongoing global debates about Internet governance, CDT has released a report calling for continued reform at the Internet Corporation on Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
<http://www.cdt.org/>
CDT Report: "ICANN and Internet Governance: Getting Back to Basics"
http://www.cdt.org/dns/icann/20040713_cdt.pdf

Commentary: Spies Drink Coke, Wear Ipods -The military bans novelty phones and MP3 players. The enterprise isn't far off.
<http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&sid=56166>

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



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