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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

BATTLE BREWS OVER RULES FOR PHONES ON INTERNET – Behind the scenes, a fierce battle is emerging among rival companies and between federal and state regulators over the shape of new government regulations and control of Internet-based phone service (VoIP). (Registration required)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/28/technology/28voip.html>

VOIP's SECOND ACT – Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Commerce Department officials realized the agency's emergency warning system didn't work. Thanks to a new software application that runs in conjunction with the agency's voice-over-IP (VOIP) network, IP speaker phones emit emergency broadcasts.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0719/feat-voip-07-19-04.asp>

ONE QUARTER OF ONLINE AMERICANS HAVE HEARD OF VOIP - Twenty-seven percent of Internet users have heard of voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) phone calling, and 13 percent of that population have considered adopting VoIP in the home.
<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=90901>
REPORT: http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_VOIP_DataMemo.pdf

SENATE COMMITTEE SEEKS MORE INFORMATION ON FBI PROBLEMS INTERCEPTING INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS – In passing a bill (S. 2281) that would impose a three-year moratorium on state regulation of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services, the Senate Commerce Committee added an amendment that would require the GAO and the FCC to conduct studies analyzing law enforcement agencies' capabilities for intercepting VOIP and other Internet communications.
<http://www.cdt.org>

COMMENTARY: WHY POLICIES MUST CHANGE – Both President Bush and Senator Kerry have made broadband access a part of the campaign for President, but what will the next Administration do? Federal communications policy is a highly politicized and impossibly complicated mess. Experts increasingly say United States needs a more cohesive national broadband policy.
http://news.com.com/Broadband%3A+Why+policies+must+change/2009-1034_3-5261375.html?tag=nl

COMMENTARY: A LIFE-SAVING TECHNOLOGY – Once thought of as a luxury, high-speed Internet access is viewed increasingly as a necessity.
http://news.com.com/Broadband%3A+A+life-saving+technology/2009-1034_3-5261361.html?tag=nl



BUSH ADVISORS TOUT BROADBAND SUCCESS – At a press briefing Wednesday, three top officials in President Bush's Administration touted the successful rollout of broadband Internet service.

http://news.com.com/Bush+advisers+tout+broadband+success/2100-1034_3-5287863.html?tag=nefd.top

\$9 MILLION IN BROADBAND GRANT FUNDS – Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman Wednesday 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.usda.gov/Newsroom/0311.04.html>

AGRICULTURE APPROVES \$18 MILLION FOR RURAL BROADBAND LOANS – The Agriculture Department will award \$18 million in broadband loans for New Hampshire, New Mexico and Oklahoma to expand the availability of high-speed technology in rural areas.

http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/26729-1.html

REPORT: FEDERAL IT AWARDS UP 50% IN SECOND QUARTER – Federal agencies awarded more than \$23 billion in IT-related prime contracts in the second quarter of this year, 50 percent more than in the same period last year, according to Input Inc., a Reston, Va., government IT market research firm.

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/24111-1.html

GSA TAPS FIVE COMPANIES FOR CONTACT CENTER SERVICES – Five companies have won a five-year, \$150 million contract from the General Services Administration to provide contact center services to help government agencies improve their delivery of services to citizens, the agency has announced.

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/24115-1.html

SENATORS SPONSOR HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT BILL – Two senators introduced bipartisan legislation last week to establish an intergovernmental grant program to develop or modify homeland security equipment, technologies, capabilities and services.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0712/web-bills-07-12-04.asp>

9-11 COMMISSION STRESSES INFO SHARING – The final report of the bipartisan commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks called for major reforms in the intelligence community's organization and practices, including the development of a decentralized network for sharing information.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/news-911-07-26-04.asp>

DHS LOOKING FOR COMMUNICATIONS GAPS – DHS officials plan to solicit bids later this month for a nationwide evaluation of public safety wireless communications. That assessment will be linked to short-term requirements for wireless communications, which were released earlier this year, to determine what new technology and policy changes are needed. <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/pol-safecom-07-26-04.asp>

This Week@Emea

NEW E-EUROPE BLUEPRINT TO BE UNVEILED IN AUTUMN – The successor of the e-Europe 2005 Action Plan will be outlined in autumn, a Commission official told an INSEAD conference on ICT policy in the enlarged EU..."

<http://www.euractiv.com/cgi-bin/cgint.exe?204&OIDN=1508051&-tt=me>

EU TO BUILD SECURE NETWORK – The Secured Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations network will serve as an intranet backbone for the EU central government and governments of its members.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/web-eu-07-27-04.asp>

SWISS GET E-GOV FRAMEWORK – Switzerland adopted its first e-government enterprise architecture to ensure that new systems are designed with interoperability as a top priority.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0719/web-swiss-07-23-04.asp>

BRISTOL PLANS WI-FI FIRST – Bristol City Council will pioneer later this year what is believed to be the UK's single largest urban wireless broadband network, entitled 'StreetNet'.

<http://www.cityspace.com/press/level2/releases/040722-PR-Bristol.asp>

IRAQ LOOKS TO E-GOVERNMENT – The new Iraqi administration is building an e-government infrastructure as part of its reconstruction efforts. <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/0EFDB89467B2B96180256EDD0048C425?OpenDocument>

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ZAMBIA PUSHES FOR CYBER-CRIME LAW – A new internet crime bill in Zambia could see convicted hackers facing sentences of up to 25 years in jail. However, critics are concerned that the law, if adopted, could be used to curb access to the internet.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3937445.stm>

This Week@Asia-Pacific/Japan

ASIA-PAC IT SECURITY SERVICES MARKET STRONG: IDC – The Asia-Pacific market for internet security services is forecast to rise nearly threefold to \$US2.40 billion in 2008 from 2003 as users scramble to shield their systems, an industry research firm said.
<http://smh.com.au/articles/2004/07/23/1090464834781.html>

CHINA'S NETIZENS SPEAK OUT – The stodgy political world of communist China is easing into the digital age, inviting the public to voice opinions via the web and increasingly relying on high-tech devices to manage a national congress attended each spring by nearly 3000 delegates from across the land.
<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/07/29/1091080365812.html?oneclick=true>

SOUTH KOREA LEADS THE WAY – The United States considers itself the center of technological innovation, yet South Korea has gone considerably further in making a mainstream reality out of the futuristic promises of bygone dot-com days
http://news.com.com/South+Korea+leads+the+way/2009-1034_3-5261393.html?tag=nl

BRINGING DOCTORS ONLINE – The Federal Government will pour another \$35 million into dragging doctors into the cyber-age, funding a scheme that will provide broadband internet access to GPs across Australia.
<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,10184737%5E15319%5E%5Enbv%5E15306,00.html>

This Week@Us States

ONLINE, MICHIGAN IS #1 – Michigan claimed the top spot for its use of e-government in a new survey of states released by the Center for Digital Government.
<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/web-stataweb-07-26-04.asp>
2004 Digital States Survey - <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/04sustained.php>

SURGING E-GOV SPENDING FORECAST – State and local government spending on electronic government products and services will reverse its declining growth trend, increasing moderately over the next two years and more than doubling 2004 spending levels by 2008, according to a new report by INPUT, a Reston, Va.-based market research firm.
http://www.input.com/external/resources/info_form.cfm?promoid=126&sourceid=11&txtRerouteFlag=False

\$329 MILLION TO EXPAND VIRGINIA'S STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM – Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner recently announced that the commonwealth of Virginia and Motorola Inc. have entered into a \$329 million contract to design, construct and implement Virginia's most comprehensive statewide multi-agency radio system.
<http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=90890>

This Week@Americas International

CONNECT ONTARIO PROGRAMS LEFT IN LIMBO PENDING REVIEW – Two Ontario programs designed to help municipalities build Web portals and provide broadband Internet access have been put on hold indefinitely while the provincial government assesses its infrastructure priorities.
<http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&sid=56312>

GOVERNMENT MOVING FORWARD WITH BROADBAND COMMITMENTS – The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Education Minister John Ottenheimer announced that the Department of Education is moving forward with its commitment to provide additional broadband Internet access services to schools and communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador..."
<http://www.gov.nf.ca/releases/2004/edu/0720n01.htm>



REPORT: HEALTH CARE NEEDS INCREASED IT INVESTMENT, REPORT SAYS – An injection of cash into the health-care system might make Canadians feel better in the short run, but there will be no long-lasting benefits unless there is a mechanism to make sure some of the money gets spent on information and communications technologies a report warned.
<http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&sid=56309>

Other Tech News Of The Week

INTERNET PHONE SERVICE: THE ALLURE IS GROWING – Allen Tsong, tired of paying \$50 a month for a local phone line from Verizon that he rarely used, canceled the service and ordered a voice-over-Internet phone from Vonage, a start-up that entered the market two years ago.
<http://www.iht.com/articles/531013.html>

GROWING REMOTE WORKFORCE DRIVES BROADBAND USE – Almost one-third of the U.S. workforce will work at home regularly on at least a part time basis in 2004. <http://www.internetweek.com/breakingNews/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=26100321>

BELLS ARE CATCHING UP IN BATTLE FOR BROADBAND – The regional Bell phone companies have gained the upper hand in their battle with the country's long-distance carriers, and are now stealing momentum from the cable industry in the fight for broadband customers.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/28/business/28place.html> (Registration required)

STUDY: WIRELESS MARKET SET FOR SUBSCRIBER SURGE – In-Stat/MDR released a study earlier this week predicting that worldwide wireless phone subscribership will grow from this year's 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion by 2009.
http://news.com.com/Study%3A+Wireless+market+set+for+subscriber+surge/2100-1039_3-5288873.html?tag=nefd.top

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