

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

~ Harry S. Truman



- OUR NETWORK IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF OUR PARTNERS' HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT! -

- Nearly 10,000 miles of fiber optic cabling deployed
- Scalable up to 100 Gbps
- Strategic partnership serves 28 counties
- DDos Mitigation
- Custom fiber builds to your business locations
- Optical Wave Services

WWW.PENTELEDATA.NET
800.281.3564

PenTeleData
fiber networks



November 30, 2020

Pennlive
Comcast's new
report says that
people 'vastly
underestimate how
often home

Letter to Our Customers,

Change in Data Allowance Plans: Armstrong is committed to keeping you connected, and we recognize that many of our customers continue to experience challenges related to increased virtual learning requirements in our service areas. Effective Thursday, November 26th, we are temporarily

[networks are targeted'](#)

Associated Press
[The pandemic is changing Hollywood, maybe forever](#)

Business Wire
[DISH Network Puts Consumers at Risk of Losing Network and Local Community Programming During Pandemic](#)

The Bradford Era
[Causer effort to boost broadband funding now law](#)

Ars Technica
[SpaceX Starlink engineers take questions in Reddit AMA—here are highlights](#)

Business Insider
[Congress is briefly reconvening under pressure from Trump and Biden to pass a COVID-19 stimulus bill after months of gridlock](#)

Associated Press
[Pa. State Sen. Doug Mastriano tests positive for COVID-19 after meeting Republicans at White House](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
[Editorial: Canceling the court](#)

increasing all residential data allowance plans by 500 gigabytes per month. In addition, Armstrong will open all Wi-Fi Hot Spots in our service areas to the general public. [Customers can find Hot Spot locations here.](#)

As always, Armstrong will continue to work with accounts that have been affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Armstrong's Network Operations Centers remains fully staffed, 24/7 to ensure network performance and reliability. Our entire family of dedicated workers are committed to our customers and the communities we serve. You can count on Armstrong to deliver the services you depend on.

Please stay safe and healthy.

**Jeff Ross, President
Armstrong**

The Federal Communications Commission will soon shift to Democratic control, and speculation has already begun about who will assume the chairmanship under the Biden administration.

Jessica Rosenworcel, the senior Democrat on the commission, is widely considered to be one of the leading candidates to succeed Ajit Pai in the powerful regulatory post. She has been vetted twice and would likely have a smooth path to confirmation, which would be a key consideration assuming the Senate remains in Republican hands. "I think Jessica Rosenworcel probably has the best chance of becoming chair," said John Orlando, former head of global government affairs at CBS. "The ease of her getting confirmed is far easier than anybody else."

She also has the backing of Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. He issued a statement to *Variety* praising Rosenworcel's work on net neutrality and on expanding broadband access to low-income students since she joined the commission in 2012. "Jessica Rosenworcel would make an excellent FCC Chair," Blumenthal said. "She is a devoted public servant with a proven track record as a progressive voice on net neutrality, competition and consumer protections against robocalls. Jessica was looking for solutions to the 'homework gap' and expanding internet access to all students long before the COVID-19 pandemic brought these disparities into such stark relief. And if that all weren't enough — she's from Connecticut."

Another possibility is Mignon Clyburn, who served on the commission from 2009-18. A former newspaper publisher, Clyburn is the daughter of House Majority Whip James Clyburn, whose endorsement proved critical to Joe Biden's win in the Democratic primary. Mignon Clyburn has been named to Biden's transition team for the FCC. Given her experience and her clout with the Biden team, Clyburn likely could have the FCC chairmanship if she wanted it. But observers say she might prefer something bigger. She recently took board seats at Lionsgate and RingCentral, which she would have to give up if named to the FCC, leading to some speculation that she does not want the job.

Thus far, Biden has staffed his administration with experienced Washington hands, rather than reaching for outside-the-box choices. That has led many to believe he would go with Rosenworcel or perhaps Geoffrey Starks, the other Democrat on the commission. But relationships are also important, and Biden could select someone other than a current commissioner to chair the regulatory body. Edward "Smitty" Smith, a partner at DLA Piper in Washington, is one such possibility.

Smith is a D.C. native who served as an adviser to former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler. He was also a bundler for Biden's presidential campaign, and [hosted a fundraiser](#) for Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in the fall of 2019. (Harris' husband, entertainment attorney Douglas Emhoff, works in DLA Piper's Los

Angeles office.) Along with Mignon Clyburn, Smith was named to the Biden FCC transition team.

Another name that has been floated is Anna Gomez, a partner at Wiley Rein, a major D.C. law firm. She was an official at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration until 2013, and prior to that worked for a dozen years in various roles at the FCC. She has also been named to the Biden transition's agency review team for the Department of Commerce. With a 3-2 majority, the Democratic commissioners are widely expected to work to restore net neutrality. The commission voted on party lines in December 2017 to repeal the standard that barred internet providers from creating "fast lanes" for certain content companies or blocking or throttling content. Many observers believe that Congress must ultimately step in on the issue, to prevent the rules from toggling back and forth with each new administration.

Democrats are also expected to focus on the "digital divide," seeking steps to expand access to broadband internet for poor and rural communities, and making sure that more children can attend school remotely during the pandemic. The National Association of Broadcasters issued a statement pledging to work with the new administration. "NAB looks forward to working with President-elect Joe Biden and the FCC on an agenda that helps local broadcasters serve their communities," the trade group said. "There are so many critical issues facing Americans as we head into the new year, including providing accurate and up-to-date information on the distribution of coronavirus vaccines, discussing and addressing racial injustice, and combatting disinformation on the internet. As the most trusted local sources of news and information, broadcasters stand ready to work with the new Administration and Congress to address these and other issues head on." – **Variety**

Comcast Corp. will charge more for heavy users of home internet in Northeast states — including Pennsylvania and New Jersey — angering customers who work and study online due to the pandemic. The vast majority of Comcast's Xfinity customers won't be affected by the "data threshold" next year, company officials said this week. But the extra charges come as internet usage soars across the country, with consumers increasingly making video calls and bingeing shows while stuck at home. Average monthly data usage in the United States [jumped 40% during the third quarter](#) this year compared with the same period in 2019, according to OpenVault, a Hoboken, N.J., broadband software firm.

Starting in April, Xfinity will let customers use up to 1.2 terabytes of data a month before billing them more — unless they buy an unlimited data plan. Customers without unlimited data will have to pay \$10 for every extra 50 gigabytes used. Unlimited data plans cost an additional \$25 to \$30 a month, depending on whether you rent or own your own router, a Comcast spokesperson said.

The Philadelphia-based cable giant said just 5% of its nearly 28 million home internet customers exceed 1.2 terabytes of data a month. But the news sparked criticism from customers and industry observers, who noted that the pandemic has closed schools and offices and forced consumers to do more online. Some said they would flee to Verizon Fios, which doesn't have any data caps or thresholds, according to a company spokesperson. "So far in November two of us working from home have used 2.1TB [terabytes] of data. People with kids in remote school use tons more," Nilay Patel, the editor-in-chief of tech news website the Verge, [wrote on Twitter](#). Comcast said 1.2 terabytes is a "[massive](#)" amount of data, enough to watch 500 hours of high-definition video, or video conference for nearly 3,500 hours a month. Even with more people working at home, average monthly data usage was 383.8 gigabytes from July through September, OpenVault reported.

"Our data plan is structured in a way that the very small percentage of our customers who use more than 1.2 terabytes of monthly data and generate the greatest demand for network development and capacity pay more for their

increased usage,” Comcast spokesperson Jennifer Bilotta said in a statement. “For those super-users, we have unlimited data options available.” Still, the number of “super-users” is on the rise. Nearly 9% of consumers used more than 1 terabyte of data during the third quarter, doubling from a year before, according to OpenVault.

Comcast already imposed the data limit in 25 states in western and central parts of the U.S. The company had lifted the data limit on those states from March to July due to COVID-19. Now it’s rolling out the plan in the remaining 14 states across its footprint. The company’s broadband business has boomed during the pandemic, signing up a record number of internet customers last quarter. But the coronavirus has battered its other businesses, particularly theme parks and film studios. Comcast’s net profit fell 37% during the third quarter, to \$2 billion. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-214-2000 (t) 717-214-2020
bcapa.com

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®