

Fierce Cable Cable will begin to reclaim video share from satellite in 2015, analyst predicts

Omaha (NE) World-Herald Cox raising rates for most TV packages, Internet services

Reuters Facebook takes blame for service outages, which hit wider Web

Fierce Cable NCTA calls 25 Mbps broadband definition excessive in FCC filing

pennlive.com Former Office of Open Records chief sues Gov. Tom Wolf over firing

pennlive.com Gov. Tom Wolf responds to firing lawsuit, criticizes 'eleventh hour' appointment

As it waits for the regulatory shoe of net neutrality to drop next month, the cable industry is going on the offensive. Lobbyists are taking preemptive aim at other Internet rules that might come down from the government soon. And meanwhile, Cablevision has become the first cable company to act in a wider battle over the future of phone calls. If the industry gets its way, it'll enjoy tremendous advantages when it comes to the economics of the Internet. Here's how.



NO ONE TELLS A STORY LIKE THE BBC

TWO NETWORKS • ONE SOURCE

BBC AMERICA
Home of the biggest names in British television

BBC WORLD NEWS
LIVE THE STORY
Global times call for global perspective

DOCTOR WHO
ORPHAN BLACK
HARDtalk
THE TRAVEL
Top Gear
The Culture Show

The perfect additions to your line-up
For more info, contact AffiliateSales@bbc.com

Arguing against new federal broadband standards – Let's look first at the lobbying push. On Friday, the National Cable and Telecommunications Association said it opposes the government's attempt to define a new standard for broadband speeds. Regulators have said they want to raise the minimum download speed for broadband from 4 Mbps to 25 Mbps, a decision that would suddenly make it look as though 17 percent of Americans don't have high-speed Internet.

The Federal Communications Commission justifies the proposal by saying that today's Internet applications, such as Netflix, make faster broadband a must. The accounting change would **give the FCC a stronger argument** to intervene with policies that promote the Internet. So it's no surprise that NCTA is asking the FCC to slow down; it doesn't want to give the FCC a reason to impose more requirements and regulations. "Adopting a 25 Mbps/3 Mbps threshold for broadband would not be supportable as a factual or legal matter," the association wrote in a filing to the FCC.

Resisting regulation of the middle-mile Internet. – There are really two parts of the Internet that could be affected by the FCC's net neutrality rules. One is the last-mile Internet — basically, the pipes that your Internet provider operates to bring traffic from elsewhere to your devices. Then there's the middle-mile Internet, the part of the Web tasked with bringing traffic to your provider's doorstep.

The net neutrality debate is mostly about the last mile. But anticipating that the FCC's net neutrality rules could also address this other part of the Web, Comcast is telling the FCC that regulating

the middle-mile Internet is a terrible idea. "Internet traffic exchange presents distinct issues and considerations that are not part of the open Internet debate," **Comcast wrote in its filing**, arguing that the middle-mile Internet is a competitive marketplace with a lot of providers that doesn't need greater oversight.

How this debate plays out could determine which companies foot the bill for exchanging

[pennlive.com](#)
[Editorial: On](#)
[this](#)
[question,](#)
[Kane could](#)
[take a lesson](#)
[from Wolf](#)

[The Daily](#)
[Beast](#)
[Santorum](#)
[Calls on](#)
[Clones for](#)
[Help](#)

traffic — and if it's a shared arrangement, what the balance looks like. And that could have consequences for what you, the consumer, see on your bills.

A new way to make phone calls – Cablevision announced Monday that it's launching a service called Freewheel, a \$30-a-month cellular plan that uses only Wi-Fi to make calls. In addition to your home WiFi router, Freewheel phones (the company uses the Motorola Moto G) will connect to Cablevision's 1.1 million hotspots around the mid-Atlantic and Northeast. But unlike typical cellphones, you won't be able to call anyone when you're not connected to WiFi.

For some who don't move around a lot, this might be a worthwhile tradeoff. More important, it heralds a wider push by cable into the wireless business. If WiFi calling takes off as a technology, it'll change whom you pay for connectivity. Analysts predict that WiFi calling poses a substantial threat to the likes of T-Mobile, Verizon, AT&T and Sprint, and could further an ongoing race to the bottom for wireless prices. "The wireless business is in a tough spot (dare we say, deflating faster than a football in New England?)," analyst Craig Moffett wrote in a research note Monday. – *Washington Post*

Life, liberty and ... high-speed Internet access? You can add broadband service to the ever-growing list of things government wants to control, subsidize and have you consider a God-given right, based on President Barack Obama's recent proposal to regulate broadband like a public utility and use taxpayer dollars to subsidize local governments that want to build their own systems. President Obama unveiled his municipal broadband proposal in a speech this month in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where the city has built its own 1 gigabit broadband network. "Today, high-speed broadband is not a luxury," he said. "It's a necessity." Yet, the president left out that the city's \$135-\$140 monthly cost for the service is twice the \$70 rate Google charges for its 1-GB broadband service in cities like Austin, Texas, and Kansas City, Mo.

Also ignored were the many failed attempts by local governments to enter the broadband market. Anaheim, for example, abandoned its partnership with Earthlink to provide municipal wireless Internet services in 2008 after just two years of service. The city cited the inability to maintain a clear and consistent signal and competition from AT&T and Time Warner. Now, Garden Grove is pledging to look at ways to improve high-speed Internet access. But such failures are probably why 19 states have passed laws to prevent local governments from wasting taxpayers' money on building subsidized broadband networks. President Obama wants to invalidate these state laws.

If you think government regulation of the cable companies has led to more competition and better services in cable television, just wait until it starts regulating broadband like a public utility. President Obama's municipal broadband proposal smacks less of a genuine effort to improve high-speed Internet access than a payoff to public employee unions eager to add members.

Rather than embark upon government-subsidized broadband networks that may prove to be expensive boondoggles, local governments should look to encourage broadband development by eliminating monopolistic franchise agreements, onerous permitting requirements and other government red tape that prevent competition and discourage private investment. – *Orange County (CA) Register*

Google Inc. is preparing to offer its high-speed fiber-optic Internet service in four new metro areas, the latest step in a careful expansion of the service. Google will announce launches of Google Fiber in Atlanta, Charlotte, N.C., Raleigh-Durham, N.C. and Nashville, Tenn. in coming days, according to two people familiar with the situation.

Google recently sent invitations to local news organizations in those four cities to attend events this week, without identifying the subject. The Atlanta and Nashville events are scheduled for Tuesday, Raleigh and Charlotte on Wednesday and Durham Thursday,

according to local news reports. A Google spokeswoman declined to comment. Officials in the four areas didn't return requests for comment.

In February 2014, Google said it was considering building Fiber in nine new metro areas. The other cities are Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Phoenix, Portland, Ore. and San Jose, Calif. Google has told some officials in those cities that it hasn't ruled them out, and has yet to make a final decision. David Vossbrink, a spokesman for the city of San Jose, said a Google Fiber official told him Monday that Google would be announcing expansion cities beginning Tuesday. "The message was that these announcements should not be considered the end of the road for the other areas," Mr. Vossbrink said.

Google Fiber offers Internet connections at speeds of up to one gigabit per second—roughly 10 times as fast as the average U.S. Internet connection—in Kansas City, Austin, Texas and Provo, Utah. In Kansas City, where the service first launched in 2012, Google charges \$80 a month for the gigabit service and \$120 a month for Internet plus a cable-style TV package. A slower version is free after a one-time construction fee.

After announcing plans to enter a city, Google typically takes more than a year to build out its network to reach homes and businesses in the area. The company gauges demand by neighborhood, only building the network in places that express sufficient interest. On Wall Street, the project is considered by many investors and analysts as an expensive experiment to try to persuade other broadband Internet providers to upgrade their own networks. But Google executives have said that it is a real business and the company has worked hard to build the service efficiently.

In the Portland area, Oregon tax-assessment rules are delaying a decision by Google to expand its Fiber service there, according to a person familiar with the situation. Oregon assesses utilities using a tax formula that values those companies' property based on the value of their intangible assets, such as brand. It isn't clear if this approach would apply to Google, and the state legislature is planning to tackle the issue in coming months. However, it has created uncertainty for the company, the person said. — *Wall Street Journal*



127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717.214.2000 • bcaps.com

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®