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**Washington Post**  
**New polling shows most**

Integration of 4G LTE backup services from Altaworx is enabling Atlantic Broadband to offer 99.9% uptime in the service level agreements offered to its small and medium business (SMB) Internet customers.

[Americans are concerned about Big Tech's power](#)

[USA Today Apple, Samsung, Google get letter from lawmakers to protect data from period tracker apps](#)

[LightReading Altitude TV dangles carrots to lure fans to DirecTV](#)

[Variety NBC News Launches Content Studio to Pair Advertisers With Streaming Video](#)

[The Hill Op-ed: Congress must act on 5G](#)

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Pa. House Dems push package of voter bills that fall in line with national group's policies](#)

[Allentown Morning Call Coronavirus in Pennsylvania: Bucks County cases bring total to 14 as schools begin to close, colleges go online-only](#)

[Spotlight PA Pennsylvania isn't releasing details on coronavirus cases because](#)

Atlantic Broadband, which claims to be the eighth largest cable operator in the U.S., is offering the 4G backup for \$27.99 per month. The Altaworx service activates when the primary Internet connection is broken and restores primary service when it becomes available. The customer is alerted to both transitions. "Atlantic Broadband business customers will see enhanced levels of reliability with our new 4G LTE backup offering," John Romagnoli, Senior Director of Commercial Products for Atlantic Broadband said in a [press release](#). "This offering provides real value for our customers not only because of its automatic activation and messaging capabilities but also because it helps us deliver the critical uptime that our customers require."

The move is indicative of cable operators' growing interest in SMB. This market has taken on added significance for the cable industry and is seen as a growth engine, often coming at the expense of local telco competitors.

This latest offer rounds out a growing SMB service portfolio for Atlantic Broadband, which also [added](#) 10 Gbps service for business customers earlier this week. Comcast Business has been particularly active in courting this sector. Last August, it [introduced](#) SecurityEdge, which was designed with Akamai. The service blocks access to compromised or malicious domains, filters Web content and provides insight into network security status. – *Telecompetitor*

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The U.S. House of Representatives has approved of a bipartisan piece of legislation, [Senate Bill 1822](#) or the DATA Act, to improve rural access to high speed broadband. The Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act calls for the collection of more thorough internet availability data than is already available, boost connectivity access, and help with the deployment of rural broadband throughout the country.

The bill is a combination of the House version of the Broadband DATA Act and the Mapping Accuracy Promotion Services (MAPS) Act, which passed at the end of 2019. These acts place regulations on data collection and reporting about internet availability, with penalties for companies that knowingly publish insufficiently researched information. The legislation

On the legislation, Congressman Fred Keller said, "For rural areas like northeastern and central Pennsylvania, better access to broadband means the difference between being behind and staying ahead. Broadband connects our students to educational opportunities, businesses to the marketplace, and families to their doctors and health care providers. I'm pleased we were able to moving this important piece of legislation closer to the President's desk and I look forward to continuing to support efforts to deploy broadband to the areas that need it the most." – *NorthcentralPA.com*

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From an office in London's diamond district, Ben Scott has his eyes set on Big Tech. The former tech policy aide to Hillary Clinton [has spent the last three years](#) leapfrogging between elections from Germany to Canada looking for ways to counter the rise of online misinformation and halt the growing dominance of social media giants.

Now, the bespectacled 42-year-old, who worked with Clinton when she was secretary of State and during her failed 2016 presidential bid, is reentering

of a decades-old law

the fight with a new lobbying shop called Reset. It aims take on the power of Silicon Valley companies just as officials from Brussels to Ottawa look to rewrite the rules for the digital world.

With up to \$10 million in annual funding from philanthropic organization Luminate and the Sandler Foundation — a U.S.-based donor that also supports the likes of the American Civil Liberties Union and media outlet ProPublica — Reset hopes to level the playing field between Big Tech and lawmakers. It will help officials gain access to data, and insider knowledge, that so far have been largely shielded from public view. "The concentration of power that a few companies now have on a global level is unprecedented in human history," said Scott, the former director of policy and advocacy at Luminate, a funder of nonprofit organizations that's backed by Pierre Omidyar, a co-founder of eBay. "People are pissed off."

From his base inside Luminate's headquarters, whose glass-fronted meeting rooms and designer furniture give off a startup feel, the American plans to target national capitals across Europe, North America and in Australia. His aim is simple: to provide an alternative to Big Tech when policymakers are seeking evidence and advice on how companies like Google, Facebook and Twitter shape people's everyday lives. The message will go out via a barrage of on-the-ground lobbying, well-funded academic research and public calls-to-arms.

Scott's initial targets are lawmakers in Brussels, London, Paris, Berlin, Ottawa and Canberra — but not in Washington, D.C., where, he says, digital rulemaking has stalled for more than a decade. "The geopolitics of internet policy has changed. Washington isn't making any policy right now," said Scott, whose policy talk is peppered with pop culture references.

To help him marshal evidence, Scott has tapped Dan Blah, a co-founder of the Open Technology Fund, a digital rights nonprofit financed by the U.S. government, as Reset's director of technology. He plans to recruit more people in the coming months. "It would be a mistake to get countries to do the same thing at the same time in the same way," said Scott. But "we need to mandate access to data to be able to analyze the social impact of these companies to make regulation."

Picking a fight with some of the world's most well-resourced companies may not sound like the smartest move, even if the political winds have shifted against Silicon Valley. But Scott is not coming into this blind.

Ever since the 2016 U.S. presidential election, in which Russian-backed groups targeted voters with sophisticated social media campaigns, according to U.S. national security agencies, he has been working across several Western democracies to combat this ever-evolving online warfare. Clinton's election loss in 2016 left its mark, though Scott tries to play it down. "It's painful for me, but in a Forrest Gump sort of way," he said, in what feels like a well-used line about the hero of the 1994 film who finds himself present at a series of world events. "I'm not Hillary Clinton or John Podesta," he added, referring to her campaign manager whose emails were hacked. "I was just there watching it all happen."

Ahead of the 2017 German federal election, for instance, he teamed up with a Berlin-based think tank to track misinformation, highlighting how domestic groups, not foreign actors, were the most likely to disseminate highly partisan and mostly false messages online. That strategy, in part, led to Alternative for Deutschland, the country's far-right party, gaining its largest-

ever percentage of the vote. In Canada, he advised Justin Trudeau's government on how it could sidestep some of the failings of the 2016 U.S. presidential election and funded, through Luminate, work at McGill University to analyze the spread of disinformation and hate speech. The country **passed some of the most far-reaching digital election rules** in the world, though was still targeted by coordinated misinformation campaigns, mostly from domestic groups.

He also backed several projects at the Mozilla Foundation and New York University to **track political advertising** on Facebook, which highlighted the company's inability to police such content. Despite pumping millions of dollars into transparency efforts around paid-for messages, social media companies have been powerless to stop misinformation as it has shifted toward so-called organic content like people's regular online posts. "Ben is one of the few funders that I can periodical call up and say, 'Ben, I don't know what to make of this, what do you think?'" said Laura Edelson, part of NYU's Online Political Ads Transparency Project, who met Scott in late 2018 and has received roughly \$100,000 from Luminate for **her team's work**. "He has broad understanding of the issues, a lot better than I do."

Scott plans to replicate these tactics in his new global push. He's already started to write big checks to fund academic research into everything from misinformation campaigns on Facebook to algorithmic bias on YouTube, so when policymakers are looking for evidence of wrongdoing they do not have to rely on tech companies to serve up data.

His first big lobbying push will be to urge lawmakers to demand access to tech companies' user data — information that is often held back from public scrutiny because of either commercial or privacy concerns. If he's successful, such greater access to data may change the power dynamic when regulators look to overhaul competition policy, rulemaking around harmful content online and proposals to tweak global privacy rules. "I'm tired of getting into policy debates with a bunch of tech company employees and they win the argument because there's no competition in who has access to data," said Scott. "My first focus is mandatory access to data."

Despite Scott's enthusiasm — and the millions that he's secured from his backers — he goes into this fight as the significant underdog. His credential as a former Obama-era tech policy official may open some doors in national capitals. But the likes of Facebook have hired Nick Clegg, the U.K.'s former deputy prime minister, **to lead their own global lobbying efforts**.

U.S. tech firms, collectively, spent more than €20 million to influence policymaking in Brussels in 2018 alone, according to the latest figures available from **the EU transparency register**, a voluntary database of lobbying interests that significantly undervalues the overall investment these companies have made. Still, Reset has started to prepare for the fight.

Scott has brought on Marietje Schaake, **the former Dutch lawmaker in the European Parliament** and current professor at Stanford University, as an adviser. He's tapped AWO, a law firm and lobbying consultancy to do the leg work in both Brussels and London. That firm was created by Ravi Naik, a lawyer who filed several high profile lawsuits against Cambridge Analytica; Eric Kind, a former senior official at Privacy International; and other digital rights specialists.

Mathias Vermeulen, a former aide to Schaake, will lead AWO's operations in the EU capital. In Canberra, Reset will be working with **Responsible Tech**

**Australia**, a local digital rights group. Several tech executives, industry lobbyists and digital rights campaigners said they welcomed new voices in the battle to set new digital rules. But some questioned how effective Reset would be, as a relative newcomer, because much of the lobbying had been underway for years, with rivals already entrenched across the countries where it planned to operate. "It's important to have a more strategic counterweight to the tech companies," said Schaake, who added Reset planned to work with others, and not as a standalone entity. "We need to start thinking creatively."

For Scott, his new lobbying push represents an almost full-circle from his experience in 2016, when he and almost everyone in the U.S. stood by, mostly unaware, as foreign actors used social media to pepper divisive messages to would-be voters. "I'm focused on how we reset the rules within digital information markets so that the balance between profit and the public is more balanced," he said. "I'm not saying we're going to match the wallet of a Google or Facebook — we don't have too. They're wrong and I'm right."

– *Politico*

