



BROADBAND'S NEW AGE

**CABLE ACADEMY 2019 • MAY 1 & 2
KALAHARI POCONOS RESORT**

BCAP's 31st annual Cable Academy returns to the Poconos to highlight the direction our industry must embrace to prosper during the most competitive environment in its history. Cable Academy 2019 will showcase and explain the new age of broadband cable, its challenges and the vast potential it brings.

CONFIRM YOUR [SPONSORSHIP](#), [REGISTRATION](#) AND [EXHIBIT](#)

[Click here](#) to reserve your room at Kalahari!



April 17, 2019

Reuters

[T-Mobile, Comcast launch anti-robocalling feature, claim industry's first](#)

The White House is rejecting a demand from two top House Democrats to detail whether President Donald Trump improperly sought to block the AT&T-Time Warner merger, the latest refusal to turn over records to Democrats probing all aspects of the Trump administration.

Fierce Telecom

[Google Fiber will fork out \\$3.84M to make amends in Louisville](#)

The Democrats, Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York and Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, sent a letter last month seeking information in the wake of a [New Yorker report saying that Trump directed](#) his then-economic adviser Gary Cohn to block the \$85 billion merger. Nadler and Cicilline contended that White House interference in anti-trust enforcement is "unacceptable" and is similar to circumstances in the Nixon administration, as they requested communications between Trump and senior White House officials over the merger.

AdAge

[Netflix unfazed by Apple and Disney as it sees room for all streamers](#)

But the White House sent a letter dated Monday to the Democrats turning down the request, arguing that "robust confidentiality protections are essential for the proper functioning of the Presidency." "We cannot, however, provide the Committee with protected communications between the President and his most senior advisers that are at the very core of the Executive Branch's confidentiality interests," White House counsel Pat Cipollone said in the letter.

New York Times

[As Netflix Contends With More Rivals, Hulu Stands Out](#)

The merger was unanimously approved by a three-judge panel after the Department of Justice appealed a decision by a lower court judge denying the government's attempt to block it. Time Warner has since been renamed WarnerMedia, which also includes networks such TNT and HBO, in addition to CNN. It is just the latest squabble in the growing list of spats between House Democrats and the Trump administration, which [has rejected scores of requests for records](#) that could lead to court battles testing the scope of Congress' oversight of the Executive Branch.

NBC News

[Mark Zuckerberg leveraged Facebook user data to fight rivals and help friends, leaked documents show](#)

Axios

[Trump's 2020 plan: Target seniors on Facebook](#)

Politico

[How Sanders thinks he can win Pennsylvania — and the presidency](#)

The Hill

[Op-ed: Cybersecurity doesn't stop at the federal level — our states need help](#)

The White House has also rejected multiple records requests from House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings, who in some cases has issued subpoenas in response. One of those subpoenas was issued Monday to an accounting firm that [prepared several years of Trump's financial statements, Mazars USA](#). The firm had requested the move, a so-called friendly subpoena, before providing the committee records.

Trump's personal attorneys sent Mazars a letter arguing the firm should not comply with the subpoena. In addition, Cummings has issued subpoenas related to investigations [into White House security clearances](#) and a [citizenship question on the US Census](#), which Cummings said were necessary because of White House stonewalling. The House Judiciary Committee is also preparing for a showdown with the White House over documents. It's authorized subpoenas for five former White House officials related to records that Democrats on the committee say should not be subject to executive privilege. — **CNN**

As the streaming race between media companies heats up, battle lines are being drawn and strategies are taking shape. Monday saw a new development as AT&T announced selling [its 9.5% stake in Hulu](#), which it inherited as part of its acquisition of Time Warner. That will help the cellphone carrier and pay-TV distributor unburden some of its massive debt. What it means for the future of Hulu, which is now co-owned by rivals Disney and Comcast, is less clear.

AT&T managed to [sell its stake back to Hulu](#) for \$1.43 billion, far more than the \$583 million Time Warner paid for it back in 2016. That puts a very small dent in AT&T's net debt load, which stood at \$170 billion at the end of 2018. The move will also allow AT&T to focus on its own streaming service, which is expected to launch later this year.

More significantly, the deal valued Hulu at \$15 billion, more than doubling its worth in just over two years, an indication of its weight in the streaming battle. With 25 million subscribers at the end of 2018, Hulu still badly trails Netflix's 139 million, and it has yet to become profitable. Nevertheless, Hulu is gaining eyeballs rapidly—and its new valuation reflects that. The [platform is now in the hands of Disney](#), which owns a 60% stake after acquiring shares held by 21st Century Fox, and Comcast, which owns a 30% stake. How the remaining stake from AT&T will be shared between Disney and Comcast isn't yet clear.

The setup isn't optimal for Disney: By staying at Hulu, Comcast is able to complicate Disney's move to streaming, which threatens Comcast's business. If Disney had full ownership of Hulu, it might not need to launch its new Disney+ service, which will have to start from a subscriber base of zero instead of Hulu's 25 million subscribers. Co-ownership of the platform also means Disney isn't inclined to invest too heavily in Hulu, since Comcast reaps some of the rewards.

Disney might look to buy out Comcast's stake—though with its recent acquisition of assets from 21st Century Fox and its investments in Disney+, that may be more than it is ready to bite off. And Comcast may not want to leave. It enjoys a significant passive revenue stream from the NBC content that runs on Hulu, as well as access to important data on consumer viewing habits and subscriber trends. That is valuable as it negotiates threats to its core cable business and makes

its own move into streaming. In any case, while Hulu, Disney, Comcast, AT&T and others ready for battle, Netflix remains thoroughly unthreatened. – *Wall Street Journal*



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

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

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®