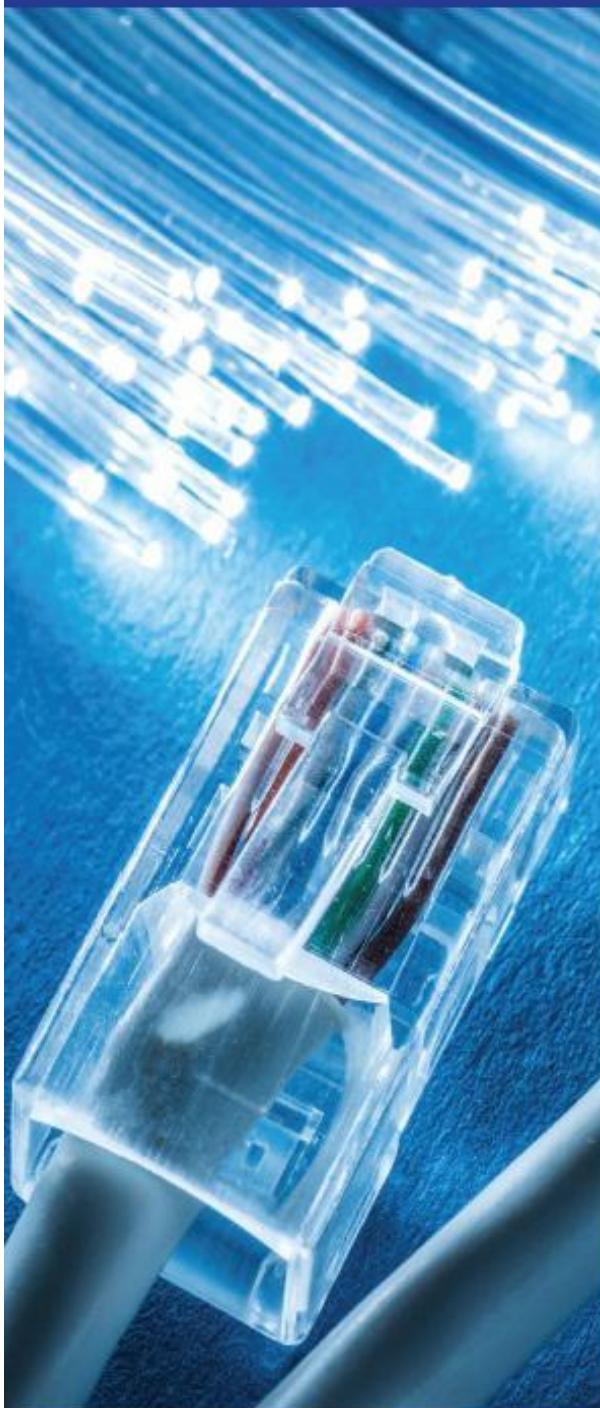


PA Townships Value Relationship with Cable Industry



The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors salutes a longstanding working relationship with BCAP that has benefited millions of our commonwealth's citizens.

PSATS members have had successful partnerships with the commonwealth's cable companies for decades. The result has been a Pennsylvania-born technology that continues to provide entertainment, education, and communications services for generations of our state's citizens and businesses.

If there was ever a template for blending technology providers with local government, our 70-year-old working relationship with BCAP members is it.

PSATS looks forward to continuing and growing its partnership with broadband cable companies in the years ahead to deliver services to ALL Pennsylvanians!



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Comcast is increasing X1 cloud DVR storage hours 60 to 150, more than doubling the capacity. The update – spotted by [Light Reading](#) – began launching at the end of April and [Comcast said it expects](#) to be done with it before the end of June. X1 Cloud DVR is available to all customers with X1 DVR service for no extra charge. The service allows subscribers to access their DVR recordings from mobile devices and computers via the Xfinity Stream app or portal. Recordings are held for up to one year or until users exceed their storage limits, depending on the options selected. Completed recordings can be downloaded to mobile devices for "offline" viewing.

The upgrade arrives several years after Comcast initially began rolling out its cloud DVR. The cable operator first began making the feature available in 2014 and has since expanded availability throughout its footprint. Fellow cable operators in the U.S. also offer cloud DVR service with varying amounts of storage. Charter's Spectrum cDVR says it can record up to 50 shows and hang onto them for 90 days; and Spectrum cDVR Plus says it can record up to 100 shows and save them for up to one year. The feature is also common among virtual MVPDs including Sling TV, AT&T TV Now, YouTube TV and Hulu + Live TV.

Like most other MVPDs and vMVPDs, Comcast has seen its video subscriber base decline. The company lost 388,000 residential video subscribers in the first quarter, taking its total down to 19.9 million. However, CFO Mike Cavanagh said at an investor conference earlier this year that video is still important to Comcast, in part because of the investments the company has made around X1.

"...We are really well-positioned to provide video through X1 and the traditional bundle for homes where that makes sense for a long time to come and I expect that to continue to be the case," he said, according to a [Seeking Alpha transcript](#). "But given the rise of streaming and interest in streaming, there are increasingly homes where you can't provide the full experience and expect to make money doing so." For its broadband-only subscribers, Comcast offers the Xfinity Flex device and platform, which is based on the X1. The company recently said that it has now deployed one million Flex devices within its footprint. -- [LightReading](#)

As America enters a second week of nationwide protests against police brutality, Google and Amazon announced grants totaling \$22 million to activist and racial justice organizations. "We acknowledge that racism and violence may look different in different parts of the world, so please use this as a moment to reflect on those who have been lost in your own country or community at a time that works for you," said Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, referencing a planned 8 minute and 46 second moment of silence among the company's workers worldwide on Wednesday, in a [statement](#). "The length of the moment of silence represents the amount of time George Floyd suffered before he was killed. It's meant to serve as a visceral reminder of the injustice inflicted on Mr. Floyd and so many others," Pichai added.

Google is donating \$12 million to groups working against racial inequities, including to groups the tech giant has partnered with before: the Center for Policing Equity and the Equal Justice Initiative. The company has already donated \$32 million to racial justice causes and groups over the last five years, according to the blog post. Amazon is donating [\\$10 million](#) to a range of groups working the racial justice space, including the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU Foundation, NAACP, National Urban League, Year Up and the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, among

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Editorial: Small towns are hurting

others. "Solidarity with our Black employees, customers, and partners, and are committed to helping build a country and a world where everyone can live with dignity and free from fear," said Amazon in a statement.

However, critics of Big Tech were quick to point out how both companies had contributed to the current conditions in America and worked to assist police departments or the U.S. military. Over the last few years, Amazon has been blasted by civil liberties groups and its own employees for its facial recognition software having been sold to hundreds of police departments as well as Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Google, which ended its controversial Project Maven military AI program after protests from its employees and outside critics, announced last month that it will build security and app-management tools for the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) in a reported one-year, seven-figure deal. The Mountain View, Calif., company has also taken heat for allowing the spread of white supremacy and conspiracy theories on YouTube and Google Search. – **Fox News**

Gov. Tom Wolf said he's going to allow his stay-at-home order to expire as of 11:59 p.m. Thursday. Wolf had indicated he would allow the last 10 counties under the stay-at-home order, including the Philadelphia region, to be partially reopened by Friday. Now, Wolf indicated Wednesday he is making it official as coronavirus cases drop.

Those 10 counties will move to the yellow phase of the governor's plan to gradually reopen Pennsylvania. The color-coded plan has three phases, just like a traffic light: red, yellow and green. "As phased reopening continues and all 67 counties are either in the yellow or green phase by Friday, we will no longer have a stay-at-home order in effect," Wolf said in a statement. "I remind Pennsylvanians that yellow means caution and even in the green phase everyone needs to take precautions to keep themselves and their communities healthy."

Wolf also renewed the 90-day disaster declaration he originally signed on March 6 after the first coronavirus cases were discovered. The disaster declaration had been set to expire June 4. The disaster declaration provides additional support to state agencies responding to the coronavirus. "Pennsylvanians have done a tremendous job flattening the curve and case numbers continue to decrease," Wolf said in a statement. "Renewing the disaster declaration helps state agencies with resources and supports as we continue mitigation and recovery."

These 10 counties will be lifted from the stay-at-home order on Friday: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. On Friday, the Pittsburgh area and a host of other counties are slated to enter the green phase, the least restrictive. These counties go green on Friday: Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clinton, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Indiana, Lycoming, Mercer, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland.

By Friday, 34 of the state's 67 counties will be in the green phase. Last Friday, Dauphin County and seven other counties entered the yellow phase, which allows more businesses to reopen, with some restrictions. These other counties moved to the yellow phase Friday: Franklin, Huntingdon, Lebanon, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, and Schuylkill. – **Harrisburg Patriot-News**



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