

Bloomberg
[How Comcast's Universal Is Beating Disney at the Movies](#)

DSLreports.com
[AT&T Promises Gigabit Service to 11.7M Homes If Merger Approved](#)

TV NewsCheck
[Kagan: Retrans Revenue To Hit \\$10.3B by '21](#)

Forbes
[Leaked Emails: How Hacking Team And US Government Want To Break Web Encryption Together](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
[GOP criticizes budget veto in letter to Wolf](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[Talks but no progress for Wolf, GOP](#)

pennlive.com
[Op-ed: Wolf's 'My Way or the Highway' approach blocks progress](#)

Allentown Morning Call
[Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski suspends U.S. Senate campaign as political consultant's firm folds](#)

A new study that examines media consumption among the footie-pajama set may provide a clue to the root cause of an ongoing ratings drought wreaking havoc on kids' cable ratings. According to a research report from Miner & Co. Studio, televisions are no longer the screen of choice for kids who have ready access to tablets and smartphones. More than half (57%) of parents surveyed said their children now prefer to watch video on a handheld device rather than on TV.

Proud members of BCAP...
 the nation's first state cable association!



The name that launched an industry.

Serving homes and businesses

TV Everywhere
 Wideband 100 High-Speed Internet
 Digital Phone

Connecting Pennsylvanians since 1948

secv.com

Mobile devices are so popular with kids that nearly half of the 800 parents quizzed by Miner & Co. reported that they confiscate their kids' tablets when they act up and make them watch TV instead, thereby fostering a sort of Pavlovian response that equates TV with punishment. (That these parents simply don't restrict their kids' access to video altogether when they misbehave suggests that they're raising a generation of spoiled content junkies, but that's another story.)

Some kids are so obsessed with the small screen that

they'll even forego treats for another few minutes with their portable video device. When given the choice between spending quality time with the tablet or having dessert, 41% of the parents surveyed said their kids would pick the screen over the snack. In a video Miner cooked up to illustrate the results of the study, one child who was confronted with the tablet-or-dessert ultimatum broke it down thusly: "I know it's like, 'Whoa, why would you do the iPad!' But because it's like, one cookie? I probably can always get another cookie."

Later in the clip, we see a toddler's reaction when the tablet he'd been using is given to his sister. Let's just say the little guy is not pleased. Another kid then proffers an opinion that should chill Viacom and Disney executives to their very marrow: "Well, basically, TV sucks." Whether he was subsequently forced to watch TV as punishment for his pottymouthed musings remains lost to history.

How all this will impact the traditional TV business in the distant future is hard to

say -- "it's like a cartographer writing 'here be dragons' on the uncharted part of the Medieval map," said the eminently quotable Miner & Co. CEO Robert Miner -- but the near-term impact is already apparent in the Nielsen ratings. Year-to-date, every ad-supported kids channel but Turner's Cartoon Network is weathering significant C3 ratings declines. Thus far, Nickelodeon is enduring the roughest stretch of ratings turbulence, falling more than 30% among the kids 2-11 demo.

Mr. Miner said that one of the reasons kids prefer tablets over TV is that the handheld gizmos present a kind of viewing autonomy that the traditional set doesn't offer. "We used to use the term 'platform agnostic,' but that conveys the sense that you don't care one way or the other which platform you're using," he said. "With kids, that pretty obviously is not the case. So, I like to say that we're 'platform polygamists.' All platforms are basically sister wives now."

Of all the stats generated by the Miner study, this last one is an absolute head-scratcher. Curiously enough, 39% of the parents who participated in the study said their kids often view the same content on different devices, simultaneously. Having failed to arrive at a hypothesis for this behavior, let's just chalk it up to the fact that kids are weird and leave it at that. — *Advertising Age*

Internet users in Europe have something Internet users in the U.S. don't have: a right to be forgotten online. Thanks to a 2014 court case, Europeans can ask search giants to remove results that are outdated, inaccurate, or irrelevant -- giving them more control over their online reputations. But now, one consumer group is asking the Federal Trade Commission to make Google bring that privacy protection to Americans. In a formal complaint to be sent to the agency Tuesday, Consumer Watchdog argues that withholding that ability from U.S. Internet users is unfair and deceptive -- two types of business practices the FTC is charged with protecting consumers against. The letter urges the FTC to "investigate and act" on the situation.

The right to be forgotten, or the right of relevancy, has gained new urgency in the digital age, the group argues in the letter to the FTC. "Before the Internet if someone did something foolish when they were young -- and most of us probably did -- there might well be a public record of what happened," the letter says. But then, those indiscretions required digging to bring up years or decades down the line -- and now they're "instantly available with a few clicks on a computer or taps on a mobile device."

The right to be forgotten gives back a level of the privacy by obscurity that people enjoyed before the Internet age, Consumer Watchdog argues. But Google has been unwilling to extend the practice beyond where it's currently explicitly required -- a state of affairs John Simpson, the director of the organization's Privacy Project, believes puts it on the wrong side of the FTC's mandate to protect consumers. "Google holds itself out as so concerned about users' privacy, but denies this fundamental privacy protection -- that's deceptive," Simpson said in an interview. He also argued that depriving Americans of the right to request the removal of irrelevant search responses meets the FTC's definition for unfairness: a practice that causes harm to consumers that they can't reasonably avoid and isn't outweighed by other benefits. The European right to be forgotten has been controversial -- with some critics arguing that it has the potential to conflict with freedom of expression or the press.

But extending the right to be forgotten to the U.S. doesn't mean that Google would approve all take down requests, said Simpson. Nor would it amount to censorship, he argued, because the information would still be available online if Google removed search results -- it would just become harder to find. A Google spokesperson declined to comment on the complaint. The company's [transparency](#)

report says it has removed around 41 percent of URLs evaluated under the European right to be forgotten.

The company will currently **remove** some kinds of highly sensitive personal information, like Social Security numbers and credit card numbers, from search results for people around the world. And it recently announced that it would be allowing victims of so-called "revenge porn" -- the sharing of explicit images without a subject's consent -- to request results be taken down. The company's approach to that kind of content "underscores the unfairness" of letting Europeans have a right to be forgotten, but withholding it from Americans, Consumer Watchdog argues in its complaint. – **Washington Post**

A new job posting by Comcast appears to confirm reports that the cable giant is developing a platform to compete with Google's YouTube. Specifically, the Comcast posting describes a "video portal service that curates the best short-form video on the web."

The description comes from a LinkedIn job posting, seeking a managing editor to work under the VP of programming for the new venture. "Leveraging our large library of videos, hand-crafted playlists, headlines and copy, and other tactics, this person's voice and ideas will shape the voice of the brand/platform," the ad reads. "First and foremost, the managing editor will be an avid fan of web video, and feel passionately about helping the world discover the next generation of content creators," the posting for the Los Angeles-based position reads. "She/he must possess a strategic mindset, and be able to see potential of individual content categories and find the connective tissue between all our content categories. Ideally this candidate will be deeply passionate and knowledgeable about one or two content categories. (eg, food, tech, gaming, comedy, etc)." Comcast did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the posting.

In early May, *The Information* reported that Comcast was moving forward with a "YouTube-like" platform that could be either national or global in scope. The pub said Comcast has been working on the project for at least 18 months. "The proposed video service would mark a brand new chapter for Comcast, which would be able to play in a loosely regulated market, reach a national audience, and possibly even make its service available outside the US," *The Information* added. A YouTube-style offering from Comcast could also help the cable company address competition from over-the-top providers like Netflix and YouTube by keeping its customers inside of its X1 user experience. – **Fierce Cable**



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

**First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®**