ACA CONNECTS: VIDEO PRESENTATION

The Internet After COVID-19: Will We Mind The Gaps?

What’s the future of the Internet in a post-COVID-19 world? To find out, please enjoy this ACA Connects video presentation that covers several important topics with two industry experts, including network security, performance gaps, coverage gaps, utilization gaps and information gaps. In a connected world, the ‘new normal’ does not last very long, requiring broadband ISPs to understand that the challenges today will be quite different not far into the future.

Featured Speakers:

Blair Levin, nonresident senior fellow with the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings.
Larry Downes, Project Director of the Georgetown Center for Business & Public Policy

Host: Matthew M. Polka, ACA Connects President & CEO
(Recorded On Tuesday, May 26, 2020.)

Reference Articles:

The Internet After COVID-19: Will We Mind The Gaps? – Aspen Institute (Levin/Downes)
Keeping Americans Connected After 'Keep Americans Connected' Expires, – The Hill (Levin/Downes)
COVID-19 Shows That America’s Broadband Plan Is Still In Beta - Brookings (Levin)
ACA Connects Staying Active At FCC On A Number Of Regulatory Fronts

**June 1, 2020:** [FCC Reply Comments re Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications](#)

ACA Connects filed reply comments in response to an FCC NPRM that proposes a framework for the FCC to share confidential network outage and disaster reporting data with state agencies for public safety purposes. The filing reiterated and expanded on arguments made in our initial comments that the FCC should apply stronger conditions and safeguards to its proposed sharing to better protect outage data from inadvertent disclosure or misuse.

**May 29, 2020:** [FCC Ex Parte re Leased Commercial Access and Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative w/ Media Bureau](#)

ACA Connects filed an *ex parte* regarding the calculation of leased access rates. In our initial comments, we had urged the FCC not to require cable operators to calculate such rates more than once per year. In a follow-up conversation with the FCC, we discussed language from two old orders regarding a different formulation that nonetheless could be read to suggest that cable operators need not do so. We urged the FCC to eliminate all doubt by putting this policy in the rule itself and to modify it slightly in order to further reduce unnecessary burdens.

**May 29, 2020:** [FCC Reply Comments re Call Authentication Trust Anchor and Implementation of TRACED Act Section 6(a) — Knowledge of Customers by Entities with Access to Numbering Resources](#)

ACA Connects filed reply comments on an FCC NPRM concerning the implementation of the caller ID authentication technology known as STIR/SHAKEN. This filing defends the FCC’s proposal to grant small voice providers a one-year extension of the June 30, 2021 deadline to implement STIR/SHAKEN in their IP networks, and addresses other matters relevant to ensuring that ACA Connects members are able to fully realize the benefits of STIR/SHAKEN in reasonable timeframes.

**May 20, 2020:** [FCC Reply Comments re Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks to](#)
ACA CONNECTS: NEWS HEADLINES

Antietam Broadband Cancels Data Usage Caps (Release, 5/29)
Antietam Broadband announced that retroactive to mid-March the company has permanently removed broadband data usage caps for all customers. Antietam Broadband was an early participant in the FCC's Keep Americans Connected pledge, which temporarily lifted fees to customers during the Pandemic. “These are uncertain times,” said Antietam Broadband President Brian Lynch. “We felt a need to give customers as much certainty over their bill as possible. Eliminating data usage caps means that customers will know the exact amount of their broadband bill every month.”

Cable TV Pioneers: There Will Be A 2020 Class/Celebration (MCN, 5/29)
The Cable TV Pioneers organization said it will choose a class of honorees, named by early July, and intends to have an induction celebration on Oct. 13 even though the SCTE-ISBE Cable-Tec Expo to which the ceremony had been linked was canceled. "The organization is studying a variety of options for the 54th Annual induction" which it intends to hold on Oct. 13 as previously announced, the group said.

The NBA Has Its Target Return Date: July 31 (N.Y. Post, 5/29)
NBA commissioner Adam Silver informed the board of governors that the league is targeting resuming play on July 31. The NBA appears likely to hold all games at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World in Orlando. The NBA’s board of governors met May 29 to discuss restart plans, but no final determination has been made regarding the format to be used for the rest of the season.

Cable-Tec Expo 2020 In Denver Is A No-Go (Light Reading, 5/27)
SCTE/ISBE announced that its original plans for Cable-Tec Expo 2020 have been cancelled and alternative arrangements are under consideration. The move came after the organization received notification that the designation of the Colorado Convention Center as a temporary medical facility has been extended through the rest of the year. Cable-Tec Expo 2020 was set to take place October 13-16 in Denver.

DirecTV To Credit Some Soccer, Baseball Sub Fees (Next TV, 5/26)
With most pro sports still in mothballs, including pro baseball and soccer, due to the pandemic, DirecTV said it will be giving its subs a break on the MLB Extra Innings and MLS Direct Kick. DirecTV owner AT&T posted the news on its COVID-19 update website, adding that rebates it gets from programmers whose sports it paid for will be provided to customers.

JP Morgan Bullish On Cable (Cablefax, 5/27)
JP Morgan expects broadband sub growth to remain strong in 2Q, with lower churn given the increase in working from home. The analysts “see the recent acceleration in broadband subscriber growth exemplifying cable’s long runway for share gains given its superior value proposition across the majority of the US.” The firm raised its broadband estimates for Altice USA, Charter and Comcast. On the video side, it expects lower churn in 2Q, but believes cord cutting will ramp up in the back half of the year as households pull back on discretionary spending.

First Official NEXTGEN TV Stations Go Live In Las Vegas (Fierce Video, 5/26)
Sinclair, Nexstar Media and E.W. Scripps said that their Las Vegas television stations
began broadcasting on May 26 in NEXTGEN TV, the commercial name given to new ATSC 3.0 standards. The new IP-based over-the-air broadcast standards, which have been in development for years, promise to deliver improved audio and video quality for consumers and interoperability with Internet-delivered content.

**FCC’s Dems Slam Sinclair Consent Decree** (TV NewsCheck, 5/22)
Democratic FCC Commissioners Geoffrey Starks and Jessica Rosenworcel released statements blasting the FCC Republican majority’s decision to settle charges against Sinclair for allegedly lying to the FCC about the station group’s effort to acquire Tribune in 2017. Starks called the $48 million settlement, which covers two other rules infractions, “bad law, bad precedent and bad policy.”

---

**ACA CONNECTS: ACTION BRIEF TOP THREE**

Most-Clicked Links From May 19 ACAction Brief:
1. [Cable One Splashes Some Cash On Fixed Wireless](https://www.lightreading.com/cable-one-splashes-some-cash-on-fixed-wireless/a39571279) (Light Reading, 5/12)
2. [Comcast Has Deployed 1M Xfinity Flex Devices](https://www.fiercevideo.com/comcast-has-deployed-1m-xfinity-flex-devices) (Fierce Video, 5/11)

---

**ABOUT ACA CONNECTS**

Across this vast country, small and rural markets participate in the digital revolution by receiving video, broadband, and phone services from more than 700 small and medium-sized independent operators represented by ACA Connects - America’s Communications Association.

ACA Connects' members -- cable, phone, and fiber-to-the-home operators and municipalities -- deliver affordable basic and advanced services to nearly 8 million households and businesses. ACA Connects members operate in every state, offering high-definition television, next generation Internet access, and digital phone service.

Access to advanced communications is not a luxury but a critical necessity for consumers and companies, schools and hospitals. America's economic prosperity in smaller markets and rural areas depends on the growth and success of ACA Connects members, who believe a connected nation, is a united nation.

ACA Connects asks lawmakers and regulators to ensure fair treatment so that small and medium-sized independent operators may continue to supply affordable video, broadband, and phone services to Main Street America. Through active participation in the policymaking process, ACA Connects members and leaders advocate for the interests of their customers, their companies, and their communities to help ensure the continued viability of their way of life in hometown America.

For more information, visit [www.acaconnects.org](http://www.acaconnects.org), or contact:

**Ross Lieberman, SVP Government Affairs**  
202-494-5661 | rlieberman@acaconnects.org

**Ted Hearn, VP Communications**  
202-713-0826 | thearn@acaconnects.org
By clicking unsubscribe, your email address will be taken off all email distribution lists of ACA Connects - America's Communications Association. If you have clicked unsubscribe by accident and wish to re-subscribe, please call 412.922.8300.