Cord-Cutters Mend Their Ways

Cable’s Share of Video-Subscriber Losses Ebbs

11/09/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: Mike Farrell

TakeAway

Better-than-expected results for cable operators across the board in the third quarter have turned on its ear the conventional wisdom regarding cable’s place in a cord-cutting environment.

Cord–cutters, shmord-cutters.

The notion that cord-cutting millennials will erode the cable business into oblivion is being turned on its ear, as cable operators across the board are reporting some of their best video-customer results in nearly a decade and their younger, cooler satellite and telco TV counterparts have encountered mounting losses.

The trend continued last week as Cablevision Systems reported better-than-expected results in third-quarter 2015. Cablevision — which has been a victim of its own success and stepped up promotional efforts by telco Verizon Communications — reported a loss of 33,000 basic-video customers, a 10.5% improvement over the 56,000 video customers it lost in the same period in 2014.

Though customers are still leaving, the erosion has slowed. The results build on those of Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications, each of which in the past few weeks reported their best basic-video customer improvements in about a decade.

Comcast was first out of the blocks, reporting on Oct. 27 a third-quarter loss of 48,000 video customers, nearly half of what it shed in the same period last year and its best third-quarter performance in nine years. It was followed by Time Warner Cable, which shed just 7,000 basic-video customers (compared to a loss of 184,000 in the prior year), and Charter Communications, which gained 12,000 basic-video customers, its first increase since the fourth quarter of last year and a big improvement over its 9,000-customer loss in Q3 2014.

CABLE HOLDS ITS OWN

And telco-TV providers are no longer taking up the slack for cable losses. In the third quarter, AT&T — which completed its $48.5 billion purchase of satellite giant DirecTV in July — reported a loss of 92,000 U-verse TV subscribers. At the same time, Verizon Communications said its FiOS TV service added 42,000 customers in the third quarter, one-third of the 114,000 it added in the same period last year.

The improvements reveal that even in the face of stiff competition (Cablevision has the greatest exposure to Verizon's FiOS TV product at 49% of its footprint), cable has managed to hold its own.

The trend of cord-cutting — stopping monthly subscriptions to MVPDs — isn't over by any means. Collectively, all pay TV providers are still losing customers, and most are expected to do the same in the fourth quarter. What's new is, cable is gaining share in relation to its telco and satellite rivals.

The results have some analysts wondering if they should rethink the whole cord-cutting concept.

"It is time to ask whether we've got the story right," MoffettNathanson principal and senior analyst Craig Moffett wrote in a recent research note.

But not everyone sees a sea change. Pivotal Research Group CEO and senior media & communications analyst Jeff Wlodarczak said AT&T was likely distracted by its merger with DirecTV — satellite-TV provider DirecTV added

26,000 net new customers in the period, compared with a year-ago loss of 28,000 net customers — and should recover in later quarters. And the practice of “cord-shaving,” or migrating to a less-expensive video package, including basic cable, may explain some of the industry’s performance, he said.

From almost the beginning, cord-cutting was seen as a cable problem, Moffett continued, and investors took solace in the fact that MSOs at least had the broadband business to fall back on, if video revenue were to disappear.

Broadband has played a major role, and cable is by far the dominant provider of that service (in the second quarter, cable accounted for 100% of broadband customer additions, only the second time that has ever occurred).

But cable’s relentless focus on expanding its video-on-demand libraries and lineups, enhancing its user interfaces and beefing up its authenticated TV everywhere offerings and apps have also made it and its much maligned video, voice and data bundle into a more attractive choice.

MORE THAN BROADBAND

“Cable is now unmistakably taking share from satellite, and telco TV is fading fast,” Moffett wrote, adding that broadband deserves some credit for the transformation.

“But some of it owes to fundamental changes in the way we are watching TV,” he added. “Cable’s two-way architecture and Comcast’s best-in-class user interface and VOD libraries are emerging as genuine sources of competitive advantage.”

Comcast’s X1 operating system is seen by many as the gold standard for content navigation. At the recent Next TV Summit in New York, Bank of America Merrill Lynch media analyst Jessica Reif Cohen half-jokingly wished that regulators had approved Comcast’s merger with Time Warner Cable just so New Yorkers could finally experience the X1 interface.

And seamless navigation is becoming critical to cable operators' survival. Clunky text-only, scrolling interfaces offered by many providers are now met with derision by customers who find their smartphones are much more intuitive.

With new sources of traditional shows and short-form content emerging practically every day, finding an elegant way to choose entertainment has become a priority not only for consumers but for the content providers as well.

Last week during the company's earnings conference call, The Walt Disney Co. chairman and CEO Bob Iger listed his top three essential elements for media success. No. 2, in between high-quality programming and mobility, was creating a "fantastic user experience with incredible interface navigation."

"You have to make the service easy to use and the content easy to find," Iger said.

CLOSING THE WINDOWS

Other programmers are getting into the act as well. Last week Time Warner Inc. chairman and CEO Jeff Bewkes said the programmer is evaluating whether to retain its content rights for longer periods or even "forgo or delay certain content licensing," which would essentially push windows for online subscription video-on-demand services such as Netflix closer to those for syndication.

SVOD licensing generally brings in less revenue than traditional licensing through cable, satellite and telco operators, Bewkes said, and has no advertising revenue attached.

"We think a lot about how to enhance the value of the traditional pay TV bundle and it's something we're obviously looking at [with] our networks," Bewkes said.

In a note to clients, Sanford Bernstein media analyst Todd Juenger praised Time Warner Inc.'s moves, adding that they won't be effective unless other programmers follow suit.

"It's also very important, we think, not to just curtail SVOD licensing," Juenger wrote. "It's equally important what you choose to do with the content instead. We think the best answer is: Put it on cable/satellite VOD, as part of the bundle."

The bundle — thought not too long ago to be the reason for high cable prices by forcing customers to pay for channels they don't watch — is increasingly becoming the more attractive alternative to over-the-top video offerings like Sling TV, Sony's PlayStation Vue and others. In a research note, RBC Capital Markets media analyst David Bank wrote that when higher charges for standalone broadband service and limited choices for programming are considered, the cable bundle is still the best value.

"A household could save more money forgoing two bottles of wine in a month rather than replacing traditional cable TV with an OTT-based lighter bundle," Bank wrote.

While Wlodarczak isn't convinced that cord-cutting or cord-shaving is easing up, he believes cable will continue to improve its results in the fourth quarter. Charter will add about 30,000 video customers in Q4, he predicted, ending the year on a positive note, while Time Warner Cable and Comcast should be flat and Cablevision will lose about 30,000 over the same timeframe.

"I think it is too early to make the call that cordshaving needs to be rethought," Wlodarczak said. "I think it is here to stay, but as I have noted in the past, I think it will be likely more contained than most media investors seem to be pricing in — one-to two percentage points of decline driven mostly by the fact that pay TV is increasingly too expensive."

The turnaround in the cable business hasn't been a one-quarter phenomenon. The turn in the tide for cable-subscriber losses started four years ago, with Comcast in 2011. Since then, the nation's largest cable operator has reported basic video-subscriber improvements in 14 of the past 15 consecutive quarters, reducing losses by a staggering 83%.

At the same time, No. 2 U.S. operator Time Warner Cable, after a dark period in 2013, has turned around its operations. TWC reported improved basic video subscriber results in the past six consecutive quarters.

Charter, which reported positive quarterly subscriber growth four times in the past two years — 20,000 in Q1 2012; 18,000 in Q1 2014; 3,000 in Q4 2014; and 12,000 in Q3 of this year — is continuing on that path and, along with TWC, has estimated that it will report positive basic-video customer growth this year.

RIVALS TRENDING DOWNWARD

While cable has shown consistent improvement, telcos and satellite providers have been mired in an opposing trend. Once the main growth engines for the pay TV sector, AT&T and Verizon have seen their TV-subscriber growth dwindle in the past two years.

AT&T added 924,000 U-verse TV customers in 2013 and 680,000 in 2014, but in the first nine months of 2015, that growth has dissipated to a loss of 64,000 customers.

Growth at Verizon — which did not close a megamerger this year — has also slowed down. The telco added 536,000 FiOS TV customers in 2013 and 387,000 in 2014. So far this year, the telco has added 158,000 FiOS TV customers.

On the satellite side, Dish Network — which is scheduled to release third-quarter results on Nov. 9 — has struggled with subscriber losses, shedding 79,000 net subscribers in 2014. In the first half of this year, Dish has lost a total of 215,000 net customers.

All of this seems to bode well for the cable industry.

“Cable’s improvement in basic video looks sustainable,” Moffett wrote.
http://www.multichannel.com/news/content/cord-cutters-mend-their-ways/395150
Multichannel News

Hill Players Eye Net-Neutrality Law

Talk of a legislative solution to Title II fight grows around Congress 11/09/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: John Eggerton

TakeAway

Legislative consensus appears to be building around a network-neutrality law that would pre-empt the contentious fight over the FCC's Title II-based rules.

WASHINGTON — There could yet be hope for a legislative solution to network-neutrality rules that preserve the basic "protections" sought by the FCC, but without the Title II reclassification cable operators and other Internet-service providers adamantly oppose.

In hearings on broadband deployment and in the re-nomination hearing for Democratic Federal Communications Commission member Jessica Rosenworcel, members of both parties signaled such a solution would be preferable to years-long litigation over regulating broadband Internet service as a common-carrier service under Title II of the Communications Act.

Oral argument in the legal challenge is set for Dec. 4, but a three-judge panel decision won't come until sometime next year, which can be appealed to the full court, or the Supreme Court, or both.

"We've come a long way, baby," Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) said at Rosenworcel's hearing in referring to his talks with Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.). "We're narrowing the differences," said Nelson of those negotiations, thanking Thune for his willingness to "dive in."

Thune said that it would be “great” if they could get to the finish line on a bill and that he was all for “clarity and clear rules.”

Elsewhere, the Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee attached a rider to a FCC appropriations bill that would outright block the agency’s enforcement of the rules, which went into effect June 12. But the amendment is almost certain to be stripped out of a final bill if it expects to make it past President Obama, who pushed for the rules.

Republicans have already drafted a net-neutrality bill, but the measure would take some of the teeth out of the Section 706 authority the FCC has used to try and buttress net-neutrality rules. Section 706 of the 1996 Telecom Act allows the FCC to determine whether “advanced telecommunications capability” is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion.

Republicans have signaled they might be able to drop the Section 706-related language for the sake of a bill that would reverse the Title II reclassification, saying explicitly that common-carrier regulations could not be applied to the Internet.

Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee, appeared to concede it was time to come to a legislative meeting of the minds.

“We are no longer debating whether there should be net-neutrality rules, but instead, how to best put them into place,” he said at a hearing two weeks ago.

The Information Technology and Innovation Council, which has a board that includes some major computer companies and legislative honorary members, also two weeks ago proposed a “grand bargain” bill that would provide legislative underpinning for open Internet rules, while allowing for some paid prioritization and funding of broadband deployment programs. http://www.multichannel.com/hill-players-eye-net-neutrality-law/395162
Multichannel News

TabletTV Lets Viewers Mix, Match

New 'Plus' Offering Blends Off-Air Stations, OTT 11/30/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: Jeff Baumgartner

TakeAway

TabletTV, which brings broadcast stations to mobile devices, has added OTT providers to its content mix.

After entering the market a year ago with a platform focused on bringing digital over-the-air TV to mobile devices, TabletTV is adding support for increasingly popular over-the-top services.

TabletTV, a joint venture of Granite Broadcasting and U.K.-based Motive Television, has launched a new app, called TabletTV Plus, that stitches OTA and OTT together. It hopes this blend will appeal to a growing set of cord-cutters and on-the-go viewers.

"What people want is everything in one place," Luc Tomasino, TabletTV's launch director, said.

TabletTV's offering centers on the TPod, an $89.95 device that performs the function of an antenna tuner, able to capture free, over-the-air TV signals for display on tablets with the company's app. The TPod also has WiFi connectivity and an integrated DVR.

The newest version of the free TabletTV app also integrates Web connectivity and a guide that can integrate access to a Web browser and over-the-top apps and services. In that scenario, a viewer could watch TV in the app while simultaneously surfing the Web, checking email or accessing Twitter or Facebook.

TabletTV has launched a “Plus” version of the app for iOS-powered iPads, and expects to introduce an Android version next year. The current offering also lets users stream video to TVs via support for Google Chromecast and Apple TV (via AirPlay). The iOS app, made available on Apple’s App Store Nov. 15, integrates a guide with the local area’s over-the-air TV stations and the ability to load in “channels” that provide direct access to OTT and Web applications.

Early on, TabletTV’s over-the-top feature preloads access to offerings such as Google and YouTube, though customers can add “Internet channels” such as CBS All Access, HBO Now, Hulu, Netflix and Showtime.

TabletTV is also interested in striking up partnerships with other OTT services that would be interested in premium placement on the app’s program guide.

The company already has some experience with this OTA-OTT mix. Motive Television’s TabletTV operation in the U.K. (a separate unit that is not partnered with Granite Broadcasting) recently introduced an OTT-capable version of the TPod that supports a handful of apps, including YouTube, BBC iPlayer, BT Sport and Netflix.

TabletTV won’t say how many consumers have purchased TPods. The company launched its first beta market test with Granite’s KOFYTV in San Francisco in December 2014.

The company also said it’s too early to get a fix on the primary market for TabletTV and what the profile of the typical customer looks like. http://www.multichannel.com/tablettv-lets-viewers-mix-match/395569 Multichannel News

Millennials Crave Choice, Fewer Ads

11/30/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: Mike Farrell

NEW YORK — There are a range of ways to engage millennials, from providing more mobility to lightening ad loads to empowering customers with more choices for content and advertising.

Those were the takeways offered by several top media executives at the Paley Center for Media's 2015 Paley International Council Summit here. Mobility has been a hotbutton issue for months, and Major League Baseball president of Business and Media Bob Bowman said it is key to attracting millennials to networks. "All we know is that if it's not on a mobile device, it's not going to matter," Bowman said.

Sports has been one of the programming business's few constants, mainly because viewers have to watch it live. Turner Broadcasting System president David Levy said while that is still the case — "Nobody watches the Super Bowl on Monday" — new sports are also attracting both digital and traditional audiences.

Turner recently bought into the eSports business – it plans to launch a new *Counter Strike: Global Offensive* league in partnership with WME/IMG that will air weekly on TBS next year.

Earlier, 21st Century Fox CEO James Murdoch called for more creative advertising and softer ad loads — adding that traditional networks could take a cue from the gaming industry, which offers players the choice of paying for a feature upgrade or watching a short ad.

“The fear is around empowering customers,” Murdoch said. “If we tell customers this is how we value your time, they step up right away.” http://www.multichannel.com/millennials-crave-choice-fewer-ads/395570

Multichannel News

When IPTV Isn't OTT: Comcast's Dilemma

Stream TV could restoke a net-neutrality debate over managed services

11/30/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: Jeff Baumgartner

Don't look now, but Stream TV, Comcast's new Internet protocol-delivered skinny-bundle service, is about to open up an old can of worms tied to the Federal Communications Commission's network-neutrality rules.

For its part, Comcast has been above board about its data-usage policy for Stream TV, a $15-per-month service that offers the major broadcasters and HBO. In an online FAQ, Comcast said the in-home service is exempt from usage-based broadband data plans it is testing in several markets.

Stream TV customers (Comcast has launched the service in Chicago and Boston) also have access to TV Everywhere apps such as HBO Go, which can be accessed in or out-of-home through high-speed Internet connections that are subject to broadband-usage policies.

Comcast has not announced if or when it might enact the new high-speed Internet policies nationwide, but it has been kicking the tires on several usage-based approaches. Some charge extra for buckets of data when customers exceed their monthly allowances; a newer "Unlimited Data Option," which runs an additional $30 to $35 per month, would seem to be tailored for cord-cutters who get most of their video from Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and other OTT providers.

NET-NEUTRALITY WORRIES

Comcast's policy with Stream TV, a service for broadband-only customers, is catching some heat from bloggers and othes who believe it violates network-neutrality rules or, at the very least, puts other online video services at a disadvantage.

But Stream TV is not an OTT service, Comcast has insisted. That's because it is delivered over separately provisioned bandwidth, and because the IP traffic it generates does not intermix with the traffic and bandwidth set aside for Comcast's public high-speed Internet products.

That means Comcast is not prioritizing IP traffic. Rather, it's using a separately managed swath of bandwidth for its IP-delivered services. DOCSIS 3.0 modems are flexible in that some tuners can be used for regular high-speed Internet service, while others can be used for managed IP services, like Stream TV or Comcast's Xfinity TV app for X1.

"Stream TV is an in-home, IP-cable service delivered over Comcast's cable network, not over the public Internet," Comcast said in a statement amid growing questions about its policies. "IP-cable is not an 'over-the-top' streaming video service. Stream enables customers to enjoy their cable TV service on mobile devices in the home delivered over the managed cable network, without the need for additional equipment, like a traditional set-top-box."

Comcast isn't alone. Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications are streaming video over managed IP connections for their respective Roku apps. AT&T U-verse also nails up separate IP capacity for its managed U-verse TV offering that is not subject to the telco's Internet data usage policies.

Don't be shocked if this is evoking a sense of déjà vu. In 2012, Comcast received some backlash from Netflix for a managed IP VOD app for the Xbox 360 that was exempt from the MSO's Internet data-usage policies. Comcast pulled the plug on its Xbox 360 app earlier this year.

WITHIN THE CURRENT RULES

For now, the rules appear to be in Comcast's favor when it comes to managed IPTV services, which are viewed differently in terms of regulations than services delivered over a public Internet connection. In MVPD definition rules issued last December, the FCC said "an entity that delivers cable services via IP is a cable operator to the extent it delivers those services as managed video services over its own facilities and within its footprint."

The FCC also appears to be OK with the idea behind so-called "zero-rated" services that don't count against data plans, including T-Mobile's new "Binge On" offering.

In comments Nov. 19, FCC chairman Tom Wheeler praised Binge On as "highly innovative and highly competitive," and within the bounds of the agency's Open Internet order.

MCN/B&C *Washington bureau chief John Eggerton contributed to this story*. http://www.multichannel.com/when-iptv-isn-t-ott-comcast-s-dilemma/395573
Multichannel News

Wheeler: No Rush to Redefine OTT

Says broadcast exclusivity may resurface in retransmission-consent review

11/30/2015 8:00 AM Eastern

By: John Eggerton

TakeAway

A House oversight hearing revealed some recent victories for cable at the FCC.

WASHINGTON — Cable operators got some good news out of the Federal Communications Commission, thanks to the probing in a House Communications Committee oversight hearing.

FCC chairman Tom Wheeler sent a clear signal during that Nov. 17 hearing that his proposal to reclassify some over-the-top video providers as multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) was not going anywhere in the near term — or the far future, for that matter — unless circumstances change.

Wheeler last fall proposed redefining linear over-the-top providers (with lineups of scheduled linear channels similar to those of traditional cable and satellite providers) as MVPDs as a means to ensure access to programming. But his idea has been getting pushback from some online video distributors, cable operators and even some Democrats in Congress.

He also sent a less clear signal, but a signal nonetheless, that the notion of getting rid of the broadcast exclusivity rules — cable operators would be OK with that — could survive as part of the FCC's review of retransmission-consent rules, after Wheeler’s separate order to kill those rules appeared dead in the water.

Finally, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association found supporters on both sides of the aisle in its opposition to an AllVid navigation-device approach to a downloadable software successor to the CableCard.

The NCTA has argued that there is no public-policy rationale for redefining what constitutes an MVPD, and even if there was, such a move would be constitutionally suspect. But that likely did not hold as much sway with Wheeler as the arguments by online video providers, such as online retail giant Amazon, that the change was unnecessary, and that online video innovation and competition was “vibrant and growing.”

Rep. Chris Collins (R-N.Y.) pressed Wheeler during the hearing on what the lawmaker called potentially onerous regulations on new technologies like streaming video. Wheeler had a ready answer, which was that while he had started a rulemaking on the issue, “the purpose of rulemakings is to learn.” He said he learned that “there are a vast number of things that are developing very rapidly, and we have not moved forward on that notice of proposed rulemaking and I don’t see, unless the situation changed, that we would.” (Wheeler not too long ago had suggested there would be a vote by fall on that rulemaking.)

Whether it was the arguments of the NCTA or if edge providers, score one for cable.

Also at the hearing, Rep. Billy Long (R-Mo.) said he was concerned about axing the exclusivity rules before the Government Accountability Office released an impact study. He said such a move might be premature. Wheeler has already voted to eliminate the broadcast exclusivity rules in an order circulated in August that did not get traction with the other commissioners.

The appropriate place to address exclusivity, Wheeler said, would be in the inquiry into “good faith” retransmission-consent negotiations that the FCC is conducting at Congress’s behest.

That means the other commissioners probably won't vote on the separate order eliminating the rules, but they could still be axed as part of a retrans remake.

Herring Qualifies Support for Charter-TWC

WASHINGTON — An independent programmer endorsing a big cable merger definite boost, so Herring Networks's support of the Charter-Time Warner Cable deal in a Federal Communications Commission filing was good news for the merging parties.

But Herring (parent of AWE and One America News Network) is now having second thoughts, tied to the hot-button issue of over-the-top distribution.

In a Sept. 16 filing, the company said Charter had dealt fairly with independent networks, saying it was in regular conversation with almost all other independent networks and had "not heard of any formal or informal complaints" against Charter.

Fast forward to this month and it said it had a host of issues and that "based on its recent dealings with Charter." It cited Charter's "fundamental lack of respect for independent programmers."

The Comcast-TWC merger would need conditions to protect independent networks, Herring said, and fans of indie networks peppered the FCC with compaints.

"Charter is committed to ensuring its customers have access to independent and diverse programming," the Stamford, Conn.-based MSO said in response.
— *John Eggerton*
http://www.multichannel.com/wheeler-no-rush-redefine-ott/395579
Multichannel News

Trade Journal Links

The FCC flexes its muscles on privacy, fining Cox nearly $600K after a hack exposed the data of 61 Cox customers: "Normally, privacy and data security matters are the domain of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)...[h]owever, the FTC does not have jurisdiction over common carriers, which broadband providers now are thanks to the FCC's Open Internet Order." | The Hill

Most broadband growth seen in cable companies. "Leichtman Research Group, Inc. (LRG) found that the seventeen largest cable and telephone providers in the US -- representing about 94% of the market -- acquired about 645,000 net additional high-speed Internet subscribers in the third quarter of 2015. These top broadband providers now account for 89.5 million subscribers -- with top cable companies having nearly 54.3 million broadband subscribers, and top telephone companies having over 35.2 million subscribers." | Press Release (Don Means)

Ad blockers a headache for online video providers: "ads on their players aren't being seen, and they're not getting paid because of it. At the same time, no one wants to significantly inconvenience their viewers. Can a balance be found that keeps ads playing without chasing away audiences?" | FierceOnlineVideo

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) warns that UHD and 4KTV sets are energy hogs, using "on average 30% more power than their standard HD counterparts." | Broadband Reports

NEW COMCAST STREAMING SERVICE WON'T COUNT AGAINST CAPS. Comcast is launching a new video streaming service that is delivered through its cable system, not via the Internet, and won't count against customers' data caps, ArsTechnica reports: http://arstechnica.com/business/2015/11/comcast-launches-online-tv-service-that-doesnt-count-against-data-caps/

The linked *ArsTechnica* article quotes a Comcast spokesperson as follows:

We asked Comcast today if Stream TV usage will count against the 300GB data plans imposed in certain parts of Comcast's territory. "No, Stream is an IP cable service delivered over our managed network to the home," a Comcast spokesperson replied.

Comcast also pointed Ars to an FAQ that says, "Stream TV is a cable streaming service delivered over Comcast's cable system, not over the Internet. Therefore, Stream TV data usage will not be counted towards your Xfinity Internet monthly data usage."

An outage shows that Comcast and AT&T's network lack redundancy, should they be required to have it? | POTs and PANs

"Charter Deal Approval Could be Delayed to June" | Broadband Reports

"FCC Could Ease Telecom Unbundling Requirements" | Telecompetitor

Radio Segment and transcript from NPR: "Li-Fi is a lot like Wi-Fi, but it uses light to transmit data. NPR's Scott Simon speaks to the man who invented the faster alternative: Harald Haas." | NPR

Report from International Telecommunications Union finds "3.2B People Now Online Globally, Mobile Broadband Overtakes Home Internet Use" | [Tech Crunch]

"SF Hackathon Explores Ideas for Citywide Internet of Things Network;" Winners used sensors and GPS trackers to gather various types of data. | [Government Technology]

According to anonymous sources, Amazon Prime "customers will have the option of adding other online subscriptions to their accounts, including major, well-known movie and TV channels, and Amazon will also sell prepackaged bundles of its own creation" | [Bloomberg]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-kushnick/exposing-one-of-the-large_b_8767256.html