

STRONG

FLEXIBLE

FAST



Connecting Across The Digital Divide

23 million people in rural America don't have broadband connections. Lots of urban residents simply can't afford the service.

The business of America is moving online. Just think of retail, where Amazon is gobbling up the world. Then there's banking, bill-paying, homework, health services, and on and on. But lots of America still doesn't have broadband Internet access. The country made electricity and telephone access a national priority. Should it do the same for fast Internet?

Maine to Transform Communications for Public Safety; Governor LePage Approves Buildout Plan for First Responder Network

Governor Paul LePage today moved to transform first responder communications for Maine's public safety community. Maine is the 11th state or territory to "opt-in" to the FirstNet network. With his decision, FirstNet and AT&T* will deliver a specialized wireless broadband network to Maine's first responders and bring advanced technologies that will help them save lives and protect communities.

FCC Looks Afresh at Reasonable Broadband Deployment

Has progress toward universal access been reasonable and timely?

The FCC is seeking input on its annual assessment of whether advanced telecommunications is being deployed to all Americans on a reasonable and timely basis and the new FCC management is asking some questions.

When it comes to cybersecurity, companies need force fields, not walls

Deploy strong cyber technology today.

Cybersecurity is no longer a matter of protecting against mere nuisance. Over the past 15 years, the digital threats to our physical lives have become graver, and the perpetrators of them more capable than most people realize. As the financial rewards for breaching institutions grew, amateur hackers gave way to professionalized cyberterrorists. Nation-states are putting young people through school and then aiming them at other countries.

White House to expand Veterans access to telehealth

U.S. Senators and members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) applauded the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) announcement to expand telehealth services for veterans and provide telemedicine across state lines. The announcement follows the senators' efforts to improve telehealth services for veterans through their bipartisan legislation, the Veterans E-Health & Telemedicine Support (VETS) Act.

The digital divide between rural and urban America's access to internet

The internet is not a luxury. Last year a federal court defined it as a basic utility like running water or electricity, but in rural areas across America, high-speed internet often ends at the county line. The FCC Thursday committed \$2 billion in subsidies over the next decade to help telecommunications companies bridge that gap, reports CBS News' Tony Dokoupil.

FirstNet: Putting Lifesaving Technologies into the Hands of Heroes

Dedicated high-speed network for first responders

FirstNet was honored to be a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's celebration of American Heroes Week, highlighting the brave men and women of public safety who are America's heroes. This blog is reposted from The Commerce Blog.

Scary New Social Engineering Attack Turns Off Your Power

Targeting US energy companies which could cause power cuts.

A new attack vector that bypasses all your software defenses has been discovered by Israeli cybersecurity company Cyberint. At the moment the bad guys are targeting US and UK energy companies which could cause power cuts and even cost lives, but this tactic could be used against anyone.

Internet of Things promises to revolutionize farming

Flexible example: wireless sensor/control irrigation network.

A relatively simple example is a wireless sensor/control irrigation network that is being set up at West Hills College in the Farm of the Future's pistachio orchard. A variety of sensors will be placed throughout the orchard, including soil moisture, salinity, trunk diameter, sap flow, irrigation flow rate, and waterline pressure.

USDA seeks applications for loans to provide broadband in rural areas

Modernizing to deliver high-speed internet service.

USDA plans to make at least \$60 million in loans available. Loans can range from \$100,000 to \$20 million. They will be provided through USDA Rural Development's Telecommunications Program.

Rural towns in the eclipse's path are bracing for a flood of smartphone-toting visitors

More than 100,000 visitors are expected to descend on Hopkinsville, KY and the surrounding region for this month's historic solar eclipse. The crush of people who will journey to Hopkinsville for the celestial occasion will need food. They'll need shelter. And, in an era of Instagram, Snapchat and live-streaming, they'll almost certainly need cellphone service.

MIT Deems MicroMasters a Success

Flexible broadband for higher ed blended learning.

Administrators at Massachusetts Institute of Technology say they are "floored" by the quality of students in its half online, half in-person master's degree program. Expansion plans are in the works.

We're Thinking about Cybersecurity All Wrong

Building a platform for sharing information about common threats.

Michael Daniel has a unique perspective on today's chaotic world of cybersecurity. Fresh off a four-year stint as President Obama's top cyber advisor, Daniel is now president of the Cyber Threat Alliance, a nonprofit team of cybersecurity companies building a platform for sharing information about common threats. Find out more in this edited transcript of the discussion.

Five new threats to your mobile device security

Be cyber strong by being aware of these threats.

A decade ago, mobile malware was considered a new and unlikely threat. Many mobile device users even considered themselves immune from such threats. Fast forward to 2017, and more than 1.5 million new incidents of mobile malware have been detected by McAfee Labs in the first quarter of the year alone – for a total of more than 16 million mobile malware incidents.

10 Critical Steps to Create a Culture of Cybersecurity

Protect yourself: 90% of businesses experienced cyber attack.

Despite constant headlines about cyber attacks, organizations continue to leave their systems and data unnecessarily vulnerable. According to Kaspersky Labs and the Ponemon Institute, 90% of businesses have experienced a cyber attack, with an average cost per breach of \$3.6 million. Ponemon estimates that 27.7% of organizations surveyed will likely suffer another material breach within the next two years.

Connect with Broadband Matters at:

broadbandmatters.com | twitter.com/BroadbandIowa | facebook.com/BroadbandMattersIowa

An initiative by the Iowa Communications Network, 400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319