Microsoft partnership promises free Wi-Fi access in Valley Junction

WI-FI

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A project being funded by Microsoft and federal grants will provide free internet to Valley Junction area of West Des Moines. The three-year pilot project will provide free Wi-Fi to area students, businesses and residents.

Report: Municipal broadband environment has gotten 'significantly worse'

There's a nationwide increase in the number of regions offering broadband service through locally-owned infrastructure, but some states are making it harder than ever for towns and cities to start their own broadband networks. The roadblocks, typically led by state legislators, have gotten "significantly worse" in 2019, one policy expert told StateScoop.

AI And Healthcare: A Giant Opportunity

Artificial intelligence's (AI) transformative power is reverberating across many industries, but in one—healthcare—its impact promises to be truly life-changing. From hospital care to clinical research, drug development and insurance, AI applications are revolutionizing how the health sector works to reduce spending and improve patient outcomes.

USDA Opens Application Portal for New ReConnect Rural Broadband Infrastructure Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting online applications for funding through the new ReConnect Rural Broadband Pilot Program. These funds will enable the federal government to partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient internet service. ReConnect funding applications can be submitted at reconnect.usda.gov

Reynolds announces state government information available through Amazon Echo, Google Home

Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and Chief Information Officer Jeff Franklin announced during a news conference Tuesday that Iowa is expanding its communication channels and services to include Google Home and Amazon Echo, meaning Iowans can now ask their smartphone or Google or Amazon devices questions about state government events and services.

Edtech leaders praise $250 million 'Digital Equity Act' for state and local government

Leaders in the edtech community praised the introduction of the Digital Equity Act of 2019 to the Senate on Thursday, which aims to connect more communities across the country to high-speed internet.

Inside One Lawmaker's Proposal for a Privacy Bill of Rights

Sen. Ed Markey's, D-Mass., sweeping privacy framework would limit the amount of data companies collect on users and require more transparency about how it's being used.

Arkansas Changes Its Mind on Municipal Broadband

Eight years after banning cities and towns from building high-speed internet networks, state lawmakers unanimously reversed course.

How two edtech leaders took on 1:1 device programs

There's more to creating a sustainable and effective 1:1 device plan than simply handing out devices to students each year. Achieving equal outcomes in digital education environments requires different approaches for different schools and often requires additional support from individual teachers.

How to get started with Philips Hue: Bulbs, fixtures, accessories and lots of colors

If you're thinking of smartening up the lights in your home, Philips Hue is one of the first names you should consider. Among all of today's smart lighting platforms, it's the most well established, the most well developed and the most well connected , too.

Cities can do more to help underserved residents avoid cyberthreats, research says

As state and local governments around the country invest big in cybersecurity, some jurisdictions are taking steps to ensure their constituents are also safeguarded against attackers who look for victims to scam and exploit.

On cybersecurity, educational institutions have a people problem

The dichotomy of maintaining network security while also preserving communication and the free exchange of information — a keystone of educational philosophy — has presented IT leaders with a unique obstacle. Meanwhile, challenges such as IT talent shortages and insufficient funding for cybersecurity projects have educational institutions searching for solutions to secure their environments in the face of new risks.

Facebook Quietly Confirms Millions Of Unencrypted Instagram Passwords Exposed -- Change Yours Now

Hot on the heels of Instagram users being warned about hackers stealing passwords, more password insecurity issues have been disclosed. This time involving Instagram itself. Here's what has happened, and why every Instagram user should change their password now.

Google's Sensorvault Is a Boon for Law Enforcement. This Is How It Works.

Investigators have been tapping into the tech giant's enormous cache of location information in an effort to solve crimes. Here's what this database is and what it does.

Good policy is key to student data protection, say privacy experts

Student data is an important tool for educators, but good policy is key to student privacy, according to the Future for Privacy Forum, which on Friday released a guide for policymakers to help shape effective legislation surrounding student data privacy.

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