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This Week's Stories

Uber CEO Kalanick Relinquishes Power After Investor Mutiny

June 21, 2017

Travis Kalanick has resigned from his job leading Uber Technologies Inc., giving up his effort to hold onto power as a torrent of self-inflicted scandals enveloped him and the global ride-hailing leviathan he co-founded.

Pressure from investors, who've poured more than \$15 billion into a company that has burned through billions, ultimately did what the board could, or would, not: It convinced the 40-year-old chief executive officer to step aside. Five of Uber's major investors, including Fidelity Investments and Benchmark, asked Kalanick to step aside in a letter to him titled "Moving Uber Forward," according to people familiar with the matter.

Kalanick, who grew Uber's bookings to \$20 billion last year, has played a starring role in many of the company's controversies.

He referred to his business as "Boob-er." He argued with a driver about pay in a video published by Bloomberg. He's said to have questioned whether a female passenger had been raped by a driver who was convicted of the crime in India. Kalanick co-authored corporate values that included "Always Be Hustlin'," "Meritocracy and Toe-Stepping" and "Principled Confrontation." Uber now plans to scrap many of those tenets on the advice of former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, who just concluded an investigation into the cultural failings of a company built in Kalanick's image.

"I love Uber more than anything in the world, and at this difficult moment in my personal life, I have accepted the investors' request to step aside so that Uber can go back to building rather than be distracted with another fight," Kalanick said in a statement. He will remain on the board of directors, Uber said separately.

Tough Time

The campaign to convince Kalanick to step aside, led by Benchmark partner and Uber director Bill Gurley, couldn't have come at a more painful time in his life. Kalanick's mother died in a freak boating accident in May that severely injured his father. After the CEO's resignation, Gurley tweeted: "There will be many pages in the history books devoted to @travisk - very few entrepreneurs have had such a lasting impact on the world." Fidelity declined to comment, and Benchmark didn't respond to requests for comment.

Kalanick began an indefinite leave of absence on June 13, leaving day-to-day management to a committee of 14 top executives. Regional operations heads continue to oversee the company's core business.

Uber has been searching for a chief operating officer. With Kalanick's departure, the company is now also looking for a CEO -- a far more desirable position for a business leader. Whoever takes the helm will have to plug a leadership vacuum. Uber also needs to hire an independent board chair, chief marketing officer and general counsel. Many of the company's top executives were promoted internally after their bosses left, including heads of business, policy and communications, and product.



Kalanick's closest confidant Emil Michael was ousted by Uber's board following Holder's recommendations. Like Kalanick, he was tied to the mishandling of an Indian rape case and attended an outing to a karaoke bar in South Korea that triggered a human resources complaint.

Business Booming

This month, the company shared the recommendations of Holder's law firm. More than 20 people were fired as part of a separate probe by another firm into sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation and other HR complaints.

Despite recent turmoil, Uber's business is growing. Revenue increased to \$3.4 billion in the first quarter, while losses narrowed -- though they remain substantial at \$708 million. Kalanick is a paper billionaire thanks to his approximately 12 percent stake in the company, with a net worth of \$6.7 billion, according to calculations by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Uber itself has been valued at \$69 billion.

Kalanick won't receive severance or other post-employment benefits, said a person familiar with the matter. As is often the case, company executives who depart of their own free will typically walk away with nothing. And many tech businesses, including Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc., employ executives at will and don't offer special payouts in case of a termination or if the company is bought.

Kalanick will retain his stake in Uber, where he exerts significant influence over the company through super-voting shares. He, along with two longtime friends Garrett Camp and Ryan Graves, control much of the board. While the three will stay on as directors, the board approved a plan to recruit more independent directors and a chair to tilt power away from Kalanick. Nestle SA's Wan Ling Martello is the first such appointment.

Uber plans to fill the board seat left by David Bonderman, a TPG Capital founding partner who resigned last week after making a sexist joke, with his colleague David Trujillo, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday. Trujillo, who was integral in TPG's 2013 deal for Uber, is expected to help with recruiting as the company tries to fill the many gaps in leadership.

'Bold Decision'

Uber has sought to head off a defection of drivers by adding a function to its app that lets customers provide tips, a feature offered by U.S. rival Lyft Inc. Kalanick was against letting riders tip, calling his opposition "principled" since he believed restaurants and taxi companies use tips to underpay their workers. Now, in Kalanick's absence, the company is trying to take a new tack.

bloomberg.com

Tech CEOs Meet With Trump On Government Overhaul

June 19, 2017

President Donald Trump met on Monday with the heads of 18 U.S. technology companies including Apple Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp, seeking their help to make the government's computing systems more efficient.

The White House wants to update government information technology systems, cut costs, eliminate waste and improve service. Trump on Monday cited estimates that the government could save up to \$1 trillion over 10 years through such measures.

"Our goal is to lead a sweeping transformation of the federal government's technology that will deliver dramatically better services for citizens," Trump said. "Government needs to catch up with the technology revolution."

The executives are part of the so-called American Technology Council that Trump formed in May to support efforts to modernize the U.S. government.

"The U.S. should have the most modern government in the world. Today it does n't," Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said

Amazon Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos said he wanted the Trump administration to make use of commercially available technologies, worker retraining, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Before meeting with Trump, the CEOs met in 10 small group sessions with Vice President Mike Pence, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, along with the presidents of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ohio State University.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, said the administration wanted to "unleash the creativity of the private sector to provide citizen services in a way that has never happened before."

He said the administration was scrapping unneeded regulations for government computing systems, such as a rule on preventing Y2K issues. Most of the government's 6,100 data centers can be consolidated and moved to a cloud-based storage system. The White House is seeking to shrink government, reduce the federal workforce and eliminate regulations.

Trump in March signed an order to overhaul the federal government and tapped Kushner to lead a White House Office of American Innovation to leverage business ideas and potentially privatize some government functions. Many of the tech executives are eager to get White House help in dealing with regulatory and other policy issues such as visas for highly skilled workers.

Others attending include Alphabet Inc Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Chairman John Doerr and the CEOs of Microsoft Corp International Business Machines Corp, Intel Corp, Qualcomm Inc, Oracle Corp and Adobe Systems Inc. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was invited but could not attend because of a conflict, the company said.

A 2016 U.S. Government Accountability Office report estimated the U.S. government spent more than \$80 billion in IT annually, excluding classified operations. In 2015, the U.S. government made at least 7,000 separate IT investments and some agencies were using systems that had components at least 50 years old. "This structure is unsustainable," Kushner said.

reuters.com

Products & Services

Amazon's Echo Show Gets More Practical By Adding Support For Smart Home Camera Feeds

June 22, 2017

Amazon today announced a notable new trick for its next-generation Echo device, the Echo Show (aka the one with the screen), which could make it a more compelling purchase: it will be able to display the live streams from a number of smart home cameras. Already, companies like Ring, Arlo, Nest, August, EZViz, Vivint, Amcrest, Logitech Circle 2, and ICR realtime have created Alexa Skills that will use the new functionality, Amazon says.

Several smart home vendors are today introducing how their particular Alexa Skill will work when the Echo ships. For example, security camera and video doorbell maker Ring says its new Skill will allow

"One statement that all the vendors made when announcing their own integrations today was how much better an experience this was for customers using their products, compared with having to pull out your smartphone."

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customers to say, "Alexa, show me the front door," in order to see and hear the visitor right on the Echo Show's screen.

"Traditionally, our user experience involved customers taking out their phones and opening the app to see their video feeds," says Darrell Sommerlatt, Software Engineer at Ring. "With Echo Show, we saw that we could enable customers to connect to their feeds via voice," he says.

What the company liked about building for Alexa is that it didn't need to worry with how to handle natural language processing – Amazon's Smart Home Skill API took care of it.

Similarly, smart lock maker August says that Alexa will now be able to talk to its August Doorbell Cam. By saying, "Alexa, show me the front door," its customers can quickly see a live video feed of any visitors or motion outside the door, as well.

And Arlo by Netgear, which makes a line of wireless, weatherproof smart security cameras, notes that the new integrations can be used to see inside your house, too. Many of its customers, for example, use its cameras as baby monitors. With Echo Show, parents could ask Alexa for a feed of a particular room in their house to see it displayed on the Echo Show.

One statement that all the vendors made when announcing their own integrations today was how much better an experience this was for customers using their products, compared with having to pull out your smartphone. It's true – mobile devices aren't an ideal way to interact with smart home cameras. Unlocking the phone and fiddling around with apps just isn't as simple as speaking out loud. (Plus, there's a bit of sci-fi fun to be had, given that you can address Alexa as "Computer,..." if you choose.)

Meanwhile, though it's nice that there smart home device apps that run on smart TVs and streaming media players like Fire TV, Apple TV and others, those are only convenient if you're not actually trying to watch TV at the time of use.

A dedicated voice-enabled screen like the Echo Show makes more sense, and – more importantly for Amazon – it presents a practical use case for the device which may otherwise seem like more of a "nice to have" luxury, but not one that added enough value to be worth the price.

In addition to working to display video on the Echo Show, the new Smart Home API will also be able to interact with Amazon's screen-less speakers like the Echo or Echo Dot. In those cases, you can listen to audio from the camera feed instead. This support will be added soon, but is not available at launch, Amazon says.

techcrunch.com

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's New Mission: Bring The World Closer Together

June 22, 2017

For the first time in its history, Facebook is changing its mission — and it's all about bringing our smartphone-tethered lives closer together. Changing the mission is a "pretty big deal" that represents a significant shift for the company, Facebook CEO Zuckerberg told USA TODAY in an interview earlier this month at his company's Silicon Valley headquarters. "We're a pretty mission-driven company."

After a decade of promoting Facebook as a service that connects small groups of friends and family, Facebook is broadening its focus for the next decade to "give people the power to build community

and bring the world closer together."The new mandate stems from Zuckerberg's soul searching on how Facebook should evolve to help people pull together in divisive times.

Facebook was supposed to give people a sense of common humanity. Instead critics say Facebook has played a role in increasing polarization with the spread of fake news and reinforcement of filter bubbles during contentious elections in the U.S. and overseas.

"Mark Zuckerberg has come to a sort of realization that he's spent much of his adult life building something that has significant potential to be used for ill, including influencing elections in unexpected ways, and he wants to make sure it's actually a force for good in the world," said Jan Dawson, chief analyst with Jackdaw Research. "He seems to have zeroed in on community as his big focus for Facebook's role as a positive influence. It feels like something that's personally important to Zuckerberg and that he's starting to swing Facebook's resources behind."

For Zuckerberg, the building blocks for community are Facebook groups, the private or public communal areas where people gather over common interests or challenges. At the Facebook Communities Summit in Chicago on Thursday, Zuckerberg announced updates designed to make it easier for administrators to form and manage groups. He says Facebook is helping people find groups that speak to them by getting better at suggesting groups with artificial intelligence.

"What we have come to realize is that giving people a voice is good and it helps get more opinions out there," Zuckerberg told USA TODAY. "On top of that, we also need to help people build community and get exposed to new people and new perspectives."

usatoday.com

Google Wants To Help You Search for A New Job

June 20, 2017

Looking for a new job? Just Google it. The company announced on Tuesday that it's incorporating a new feature into its search engine that can serve relevant job postings directly in results. Those using Google in English on the desktop and mobile devices will see such results beginning immediately.

When typing in a query such as "jobs near me" or "teaching jobs," Google will display listings from sites like Monster, LinkedIn, WayUp, DirectEmployers, Career Builder, Glassdoor and Facebook. The search engine will also provide a variety of filters to narrow down results by title, category, date posted and type, and the company says it will add more filters in the future.

Google says it does not scan the files stored in Drive for advertising purposes.

For some positions, job seekers will also see commute times if they're logged into their Google account and employer reviews and ratings. Like other job hunting sites such as LinkedIn, Google will allow searchers to turn on alerts to receive email notifications when new jobs become available.

The new capability could place Google in competition with Indeed.com, the popular job search engine with more than 200 million unique visitors each month. But while Google's search engine may work well for surfacing new positions, the announcement doesn't make any mention of whether the results will match up with the searcher's experience.

LinkedIn and WayUp, by contrast, suggest positions based on the experience listed in a user's profile.

time.com

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"The new capability could place Google in competition with Indeed.com, the popular job search engine with more than 200 million unique visitors each month."

Emerging Technology

The Future Is Waiting: Private Enterprise Is Making Sci-Fi Technology A Reality

June 22, 2017

"The future is already here. It's just not evenly distributed yet." This famous line by writer-turned-futurist William Gibson encapsulates our current relationship with high technology.

For decades, science fiction authors have woven grand tapestries of what our world would like in THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY replete with unlimited power sources, sentient computers and quotidian space flight. But as Michael J. Fox cuttingly pointed out in his October 21, 2015 Back to the Future skit, we were expecting flying cars but all we got were smart phones.

That big future is not lost. It's just waiting to get spread more widely.

Take fusion power, for instance. Although scientists have known how to generate energy by combining light elements since developing the hydrogen bomb in the late 1940s, usable fusion power has been a sci-fi dream always just out of reach.

Multiple fusion startups are showing sufficient promise to raise tens of millions of dollars in capital from serious investors and to have competition.

California-based Tri Alpha Energy has raised as much as \$500 million since its founding in 1998 and is approaching a "definitive stage" in its research, Mergermarket recently reported. With a portfolio of more than 800 patents, Tri Alpha looks to become the Qualcomm of fusion. Its backers range from Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund and tech venture capital stalwarts like New Enterprise Associates to celebrities such as actor Harry Hamlin and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Not to be outdone, British Columbia-based General Fusion has raised \$100 million from Jeff Bezos and Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund, and could seek more, Mergermarket has reported. UK-based Tokamak Energy has a billionaire backer, institutional investors and aggressive growth financing plans, this news service has also reported.

forbes.com

Intel Signs Olympics Deal To Show Off Drones And Virtual Reality

June 21, 2017

Intel is teaming up with the International Olympic Committee to show off 5G wireless, immersive virtual reality, 3D, drones, artificial intelligence, and other technologies during the Olympics.

IOC President Thomas Bach and Intel CEO Brian Krzanich formally signed the agreement during an event Wednesday in Manhattan.

Intel will offer content and technical support to the Olympic Broadcasting Services. Through its True VR platform, some Olympics events will be broadcast live in virtual reality. And via Intel's 360 Replay technology, fans will be able to view the action from multiple perspectives.

The company has been heavily engaged in promoting its technology through sports. For instance, Intel recently partnered with Major League Baseball to broadcast a live game of the week in VR.

The Olympics showcase for Intel begins next February with the 2018 games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and continues through the 2020 games in Tokyo, Japan, the 2022 games in Beijing, China and at the 2024 games in a yet-to-be selected city.

Intel chief strategy officer Aicha Evans says Intel has already been at work on some of the 5G communications technologies it will have in place in South Korea less than eight months from now. "It's a big sprint. We're setting expectations that this is going to be a tough one, but you have to get in the game and learn."

The 5G network that Intel and its partners will implement during the games promises to draw insights from the athletes themselves as well as deliver content to broadcasters, Krzanich says. "More importantly, it's going to give fans the opportunity to experience the Olympic Games anywhere in the world."

During the press event on Wednesday, Krzanich connected with colleagues at Intel's Santa Clara, Calif., headquarters over a live 5G network video link to demonstrate how far along it is. "The technologies we're bringing are real and they're being advanced today and implemented as we speak."

Krzanich stressed that mobile 5G networks aren't just about faster speeds. "5G is really talking about ubiquitous connectivity, moving from things that look like WiFi to LTE to much higher bandwidth.... Events like the Olympics Games are great examples of the challenges of connecting truly millions of fans at home with millions of things being used to operate the Games."

For his part, Bach says through the various technologies, fans "can be part of the Games, not just watching the Olympic Games."

But some of Intel's tech is also aimed at aiding the athletes, and (through drones) entertaining fans who attend the games in person with a light show.

Neither Intel nor the IOC would disclose the size of the partnership investment. The two sides began talks in January during the CES trade show. Samsung, Panasonic, Alibaba and are among the other tech companies involved in sponsoring the Olympics.

Details are still forthcoming on which events will be made available in VR and how consumers who can't travel to the games can watch. "Our goal is to deliver more and more at each of the Olympics," Krzanich says. "Our eventual goal is to let you be deeply immersed..where you can sit on the soccer field or...be one of the fencers to see what's its like to experience somebody coming at you with a sharp object. We need to bring all of those experiences over these next couple of years."

usatoday.com

Mergers and Acquisitions

Snapchat Acquires Social Map App Zenly For \$250M To \$350M

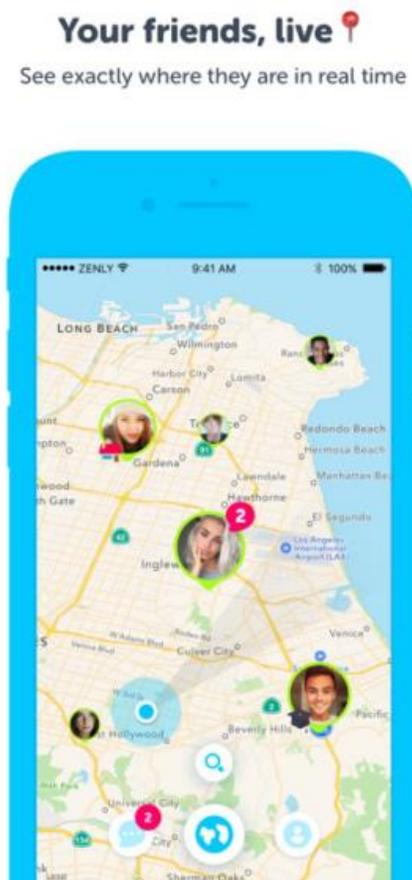
June 21, 2017

Snapchat's newest feature, Snap Map, is based on its latest acquisition, social mapping startup Zenly. TechCrunch has learned that Snapchat has bought Zenly for between \$250 million and \$350 million in mostly cash and some stock in a deal that closed in late May. Snapchat will keep Zenly running independently, similar to how Facebook lets Instagram run independently.

"Rather than shutting down Zenly and folding it into Snapchat, Snap Inc. will allow Zenly to run somewhat autonomously."

Zenly's app lets users see where their friends currently are on a map using constant GPS in the background. People can then message these friends in the app to make plans to hang out.

The Paris-based startup's app has 4 million downloads according to Sensor Tower, with 28% from France but also sizeable numbers in Asia including 12% in South Korea and 8% in Japan. The app is mostly used by teens trying to keep up with their friends around town, at school, or at concerts and other events. Zenly had raised \$35.1 million, including a \$22.5 million Series B in September 2016 led by prestigious Silicon Valley venture capital firm Benchmark.



This morning, Snapchat launched its Snap Map location-sharing and location-based content discovery feature. It works slightly differently, only pulling your location when you open the app, but otherwise looks so similar to Zenly that we suspected Snapchat had copied it. Sources told us Snap expressed acquisition interest, but Zenly initially rejected them.

After more digging, we've learned from sources close to the deal that Snapchat did in fact acquire Zenly. A Zenly terms of service change on May 25th may be related to the deal. A Snapchat employee has also been spotted retweeting people congratulating Zenly's founders.

Rather than shutting down Zenly and folding it into Snapchat, Snap Inc. will allow Zenly to run somewhat autonomously. We asked Snap, but it declined to comment, and Zenly hasn't returned our inquiries. Instead, here's TechCrunch's interview with Zenly CEO Antoine Martin at Disrupt London last year.

With both Snap Map and Zenly, Snap Inc. is hedging its bets in the social content space. Because its Snapchat Stories feature is being aggressively copied by Instagram and Facebook's other apps,

Snapchat is wise to expand into the social utility space of helping people meet up offline. Now Snap could own two different apps on people's home screens.

Making plans with friends involves a high degree of intent — about what people want to eat or do — there are plenty of advertising and partnership opportunities down the line. You could imagine restaurants, movie studios and more hoping to hit Zenly or Snap Map users with ads as they plan to go out with friends.

While \$250 million to \$350 million may seem like a lot to pay for Zenly, Snapchat has seen many of its other expensive acquisitions turn out well. It bought Lookery for \$150 million in cash and bonuses, which went on to power its iconic augmented reality face filters. It bought Bitstrips for \$64.2 million, which has flourished as Snapchat's Bitmoji personalized avatar stickers. Story Search, QR Snapcodes and its Spectacles glasses were all based off its acquisitions of Vurb, Scan.me and Vergence Labs, respectively.

Zenly doesn't seem to fit with Snap's mission to be a camera company. But buying an app for meeting up with friends could let Snapchat own the path to doing the things worth capturing on camera.

techcrunch.com

Adobe Acquires Mettle's SkyBox Tools To Expand Its VR Video Portfolio

June 21, 2017

Adobe today announced that it has acquired all of Mettle's SkyBox technologies and plug-ins for building transitions, titles and effects in VR applications and 360-degree videos.

Mettle had made a name for itself over the last few years by providing these plug-ins for Adobe tools like Premiere Pro and After Effects, so the Adobe team was obviously aware of Mettle's efforts in the area. Mettle co-founder Chris Bobotis will join Adobe.

"We believe making virtual-reality content should be as easy as possible for creators. The acquisition of Mettle SkyBox technology allows us to deliver a more highly integrated VR editing and effects experience to the film and video community," said Steven Warner, Adobe's vice president of digital video and audio, in today's announcement.

"Editing in 360/VR requires specialized technology, and as such, this is a critical area of investment for Adobe, and we're thrilled Chris Bobotis has joined us to help lead the charge forward."

While Adobe already offers some tools for building these kind of effects in 360/VR, Mettle's specialized plug-ins go far beyond what's currently available by default. Current Mettle users include the likes of Discovery, CNN, HBO, Google, Apple, Facebook and The New York Times.

Adobe says that it will integrate SkyBox's features natively into future releases of Premiere Pro and After Effects. Given that SkyBox was only available for these two platforms anyway, chances are that most current users won't see any major differences in the short term.

The financial details of today's acquisition were not disclosed.

techcrunch.com

"The acquisition of Mettle SkyBox technology allows us to deliver a more highly integrated VR editing and effects experience to the film and video community."

Industry Reports

Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T Tied In Network Speed Tests

June 20, 2017

Three of the four leading mobile service providers in the U.S. are in a near-tie for fastest networks, according to the eighth annual speed tests by PCMag. Published yesterday, the head-to-head comparisons show that Verizon continues to hold the top spot in overall mobile network speeds nationwide.

Across three dozen regions, however, the Verizon's speeds are essentially matched by AT&T and T-Mobile. Sascha Segan, PCMag's lead mobile analyst, said it was "the first time we've seen that kind of an even divide."

Meanwhile, the fourth top mobile service provider, Sprint, lags significantly behind its competitors this year, the tests found. While its numbers improved dramatically in 2015 and 2016, its network performance this year was uneven, with low speeds in some regions causing its overall results to suffer.

After LTE, Faster Speeds Coming With 5G

Using a customized version of Ookla's Speedtest software (Ookla is owned by the same parent company that owns PCMag), this year's network tests gathered more than 124,000 data points across 30 cities and six suburban/rural areas along the East Coast, West Coast and the country's midsection. The tests were conducted between May 1- May 23 using Samsung Galaxy S8 smartphones, which Segan noted is "currently the only device able to access new 'gigabit LTE' networks at full speed."

By averaging individual scores for each carrier across the U.S., PCMag ranked Verizon in this year's top spot with an overall score of 97 out of a possible 100. T-Mobile achieved an overall score of 96, followed by AT&T with 93 and Sprint with 74.

Those scores include numbers for average download speed (counting for 20 percent of the total score), download speeds over a threshold of 5 Mbps (20 percent), ping time (20 percent), reliability (20 percent), average upload speeds (10 percent), and upload speeds over a threshold of 2 Mbps (10 percent).

Since PCMag conducted its first tests in 2010, average mobile speeds have increased dramatically as carriers transitioned from 3G service to LTE and 4G. While LTE networks still have room to grow, the next big leap in speeds is expected to arrive with 5G over the next few years.

Fastest Carriers Vary By City, Region

"The leaps and bounds we've seen over the past few years show no sign of stopping," according to Segan. "Looking at the maximum download speeds, it looks like there's a 2x jump every two years or so -- "from 50-60 Mbps in 2014, to 120 Mbps in 2016, and now to 200 Mbps."

This year's regional test results show T-Mobile with the fastest speeds in the Northeast and Northwest; T-Mobile and Verizon with a tie in the Southeast; Verizon at the top spots in the North Central and Southwest regions; and AT&T leading in the South Central region.

At the city level, Verizon offers the fastest mobile speeds in New York City, Los Angeles, and Phoenix; AT&T leads in Austin, Texas, Chicago, Indianapolis, San Diego, and San Francisco; and T-Mobile offers the highest speeds in Dallas, Houston, Miami, and Philadelphia.

PCMag's latest findings are consistent with other recent speed tests, including those released by OpenSignal in February. OpenSignal's report, based on crowdsourced monitoring across 36 U.S. cities, put Verizon and T-Mobile in a near-tie. It also found that 25 cities are served by one or more providers that deliver average LTE speeds faster than 20 Mbps.

mobile-tech-today.com

Apple Seeks To Void Patent Claims, Fees In Qualcomm Dispute

June, 20 2017

Apple is seeking to void some of Qualcomm's patent claims and licensing agreements, intensifying its legal battle with the chip maker over the technology in iPhones and iPads.

In a federal court filing Tuesday, Apple cited a Supreme Court ruling last month that a printer-cartridge maker's patent rights end with the initial sale of the cartridges. Apple says that ruling strengthens its argument that Qualcomm cannot continue to demand royalties for the patents after selling its cellular chips.

The new court documents expand on a \$1 billion lawsuit Apple filed in January in U.S. District Court in San Diego. Qualcomm has disputed Apple's claims that it is overcharging for patent-related license fees. In a statement, Qualcomm said its innovations go beyond cellular chips and cover GPS, battery efficiency, cameras and other technologies at the heart of every iPhone.

Apple is also seeking to narrow the list of Qualcomm patents covered by its products. In addition, it argues that licensing fees based on a percentage of iPhone and iPad prices are unfair because Qualcomm's technologies cover a small portion of what goes into those devices.

One argument working in Qualcomm's favor, however: Apple and its contractors signed agreements to pay licensing fees this way. Apple says it was coerced to do so because Qualcomm chips were essential to Apple's products. Apple is now less dependent on Qualcomm because Intel makes similar chips.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has also accused Qualcomm of imposing unfair licensing terms on manufacturers. Regulators in other countries also have been investigating, and South Korea's anti-trust regulators have issued an \$865 million fine against Qualcomm.

If Apple prevails and doesn't have to pay as much in licensing fees, it's not likely that those savings will be passed on directly to its customers, as Apple tends to keep retail prices consistent from year to year. But it could allow Apple to squeeze in more features while maintaining the same profit.

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