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This Week's Stories

AT&T: IoT Opportunities For Carriers Extend Far Beyond Simple Connected Devices

June 8, 2017

The burgeoning market of the internet of things teems with opportunities to generate revenue by providing wireless services to a wide range of devices. But for carriers, the IoT is about much more than just connecting devices, according to Steve Hodges, AT&T's senior vice president of business customer experience and strategy.

The connected car alone provides multiple ways for mobile network operators to leverage their services, Hodges said at an investors conference Thursday morning.

In addition to wireless diagnostic offerings, operators can provide driver-assistant capabilities such as navigation services, and deliver entertainment and other content to passengers in the car.

Other opportunities include wireless healthcare devices and services, Hodges continued, and agricultural sensors, to name just a few.

"It just goes on and on and on," Hodges said at the conference.

"You look at the billions of devices that are being predicted to be on the networks — now, granted they're relatively lower use, but hey, it's all revenue; it doesn't tax your network. It's just a fascinating world to get into."

Indeed, carriers are increasingly looking to the IoT to offset data revenues that are flattening even as consumption increases, as analyst Chetan Sharma recently observed.

Net additions from the IoT and connected cars led new additions to the U.S. wireless ecosystem in the first quarter, according to Sharma Consulting, and the two segments accounting for 55% of all new net connections during the first three quarters of 2016.

But the IoT also enables operators to serve as a consultant to businesses in a wide range of industries, which could pave the way for additional revenue streams.

"We predict good revenue growth, but it has another secondary benefit beyond standalone benefits," he continued.

If you're a leader in IoT, it will actually have a pretty large pull-through, in my opinion, to your core businesses. Because once you bring that into your core operational model, it creates new levels of conversation with your customers that you may not have had before, talking about new applications, how you can help them be more productive. Now you're in a very consultative kind of world in a way that they're not as familiar with as you are."

fiercewireless.com

Microsoft Acquires Israeli Security Firm Hexadite, Sources Say For \$100M

June 8, 2017

Yet more activity in the world of cybersecurity. Microsoft today confirmed that it has acquired Hexadite, an Israeli startup that uses AI to identify and protect against attacks. We and others reported last month that this deal was in the works, for a price sources tell us is \$100 million.

The idea is to expand Microsoft's existing security portfolio with an infusion of new technology based around new innovations in areas like AI and machine learning. "Our vision is to deliver a new generation of security capabilities that helps our customers protect, detect and respond to the constantly evolving and ever-changing cyberthreat landscape," said Terry Myerson, executive vice president, Windows and Devices Group, Microsoft, in a statement.

"Hexadite's technology and talent will augment our existing capabilities and enable our ability to add new tools and services to Microsoft's robust enterprise security offerings."

Microsoft said that Hexadite will be folded into work it does to develop security solutions for commercial Windows 10 customers, specifically with Windows Defender Advanced Threat Protection (WDATP). "With Hexadite, WDATP will include endpoint security automated remediation, while continuing the incredible growth in activations of WDATP, which now protects almost 2 million devices," Microsoft notes.

Other security acquisitions Microsoft has made in Israel include Aorato, Adallom and Secure Islands.

More generally, Hexadite's tech and Microsoft's interest in it are part of a bigger, new trend in security: legacy services are no longer fit for purpose in the new era of increasingly sophisticated malicious attacks, so enterprises are now spending to update their systems to better protect their networks.

Hexadite is part of what you might call that new guard of security companies, building solutions based on machine learning and AI modeled on "top cyber analysts" to try to tackle threats more like the smartest humans would. Other startups using AI to tackle security threats include CrowdStrike, which raised a large round of funding last month at a billion-dollar valuation; Cylance, also valued at more than \$1 billion; and Harvest AI, which, as we reported, Amazon quietly acquired last year.

As we've noted before, what Hexadite does is provide a security remediation system: it identifies and stops smaller issues itself, and at the same time it weeds out bigger problems that need to be addressed by in-person security teams. By doing this, it prevents those teams from being overwhelmed by the smaller items. It claims to reduce the time it takes to deal with security issues, as a result, by 95 percent.

Microsoft's interest in Hexadite — whose customers include Nuance, Telit and IDT — points to how security remains a hot area in the world of technology and specifically enterprise IT.

The rapid growth of connected services and devices has gone hand-in-hand with a rapid rise in cybercrime, with malicious hackers becoming increasingly rampant and sophisticated in their attacks on networks and the hardware and apps that run on them, with breaches leading to millions of dollars in costs and lots of stress.

This has led to an increasingly sophisticated landscape for security services, with companies covering every aspect of how we conduct business today and a huge amount of spending by organizations to

try to prevent, stop, fix or mitigate damage. IDC estimates that enterprises will spend nearly \$82 billion on security software this year.

Hexadite had raised \$10.5 million in funding, according to Crunchbase, with investors including HP Ventures, YL Ventures, TenEleven Ventures and Moshe Lichtman of Israel Venture Partners. As we pointed out before, Lichtman is a 10-year veteran of Microsoft, which could point to one connection between the startup and its acquirer. Hexadite's last round, of \$8 million, was raised last year.

techcrunch.com

Apple WWDC: The Highlights From Apple's Big Conference

June 6, 2017

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"Aside from the new speaker, Apple also took the opportunity to announce new iPad Pros, an iMac Pro and iMac updates."

The secret is officially out: Apple is taking on Amazon and Google with its own smart speaker, called the HomePod.

The \$349 speaker made its debut at Apple's annual Worldwide Developers Conference in San Jose, California on Monday. It will ship later this year.

While the Google Home and Amazon Echo focus on being smart assistants, Apple has put the emphasis on the quality of sound. Siri will also of course be baked into the speaker, letting users get quick help by saying, "Hey Siri."

Aside from the new speaker, Apple also took the opportunity to announce new iPad Pros, an iMac Pro and iMac updates. Since the conference is focused on developers — the people who make your favorite apps — Apple also showed what software updates it has in store for later this year.

Perhaps the biggest one will be coming to your iPhone and iPad with iOS 11.

While Apple radically redesigned the messaging experience in iOS 10, the next update will focus on improving on those core technologies and features.

Siri has taken acting lessons and now delivers his or her lines with a little more human-like inflection.

Through "on-device learning," Siri can also suggest items that may be of interest to you. If you've been Googling flights to Reykjavik, it might suggest an article about Iceland. Apple says the feature is entirely private and only stays on a user's device.

Apple Maps is adding floor plans of malls and airports, making it easier to plan ahead. Improved navigation features can also suggest lanes when you're driving, so there's no more last minute lane switching in order to make your turn.

And speaking of driving, Apple is also adding a "do not disturb" feature for when you're in your car, keeping you focused on the road. Users can also decide if there are some people who should be able to "break through" the mode, in the event there's an important message.

A redesigned control center will also allow you to easily change settings and switch your music, all in one place.

And if you aren't already, you may soon be paying with your mobile phone.

Apple Pay is making a play in the peer-to-peer payments space. With iOS 11, you'll be able to send a friend cash in iMessage. The move positions Apple to compete with popular payments apps such as Square Cash and Venmo.

The money can be stored on a virtual card and used with Apple Pay, which Apple expects will be accepted in 50 percent of U.S. retailers by the end of the year.

Apple will roll out the free update sometime this fall.

Apple also shared the latest version of watchOS4, which continues to put the emphasis on the Apple Watch as a fitness device.

Expect a new Siri face that will proactively give you information, a flashlight that can be used as a safety light if you're running at night, and new high intensity interval training workouts, among other features.

The new MacOS High Sierra will also be rolled out later this year, offering a smart photos feature to make it easier to find what you're looking for. The new features earning the most applause from the audience, however were the ability to block videos from automatically playing in Safari and intelligent tracking prevention, essentially stopping those pesky targeted ads from following you around the internet.

nbc.com

Products & Services

Smarter Siri And More Updates Arriving With iOS 11

June 8, 2017

"The iOS update will be available free to iPhone, iPad, and iPod users sometime this fall, Apple said."

Apple's next iPhone, set to come out later this year, is expected to feature a wide range of new capabilities, thanks to a update coming to the iOS mobile operating system.

Previewed this week at Apple's annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in San Jose, iOS 11 will support new features for augmented reality apps, a smarter and more language-savvy Siri digital assistant, expanded payment options through Apple Pay, and more. The iOS update will be available free to iPhone, iPad, and iPod users sometime this fall, Apple said.

While Apple typically launches new iPhones shortly after its iOS updates, this year's phones are expected to be delayed past the usual release date in September. Various leaks indicate the latest flagship device, which might be named something other than iPhone 8, and two other new iPhones could be delayed due to OLED screen supply constraints and other issues.

'Biggest AR Platform In The World'

Unveiled Monday at WWDC, iOS 11 will be the "biggest software release ever" for iPad users, Apple said. It will be available for all models of the iPad Air and iPad Pro, as well as for the iPhone 5s and up, 5th-generation iPad, 6th-generation iPod touch, and iPad mini 2 and up.

iOS 11 will deliver "the biggest AR platform in the world," Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, said Monday in a statement. A developer preview of the new operating system is now available, and a public beta for iOS users is set for release later this month.

"iOS 11 gives iPad users the powerful app functionality they need to take advantage of everything iPad is capable of, and brings hundreds of new features and incredible updates to the iOS apps iPhone and iPad users enjoy every day," Federighi said.

More advanced augmented reality capabilities will be made possible through ARKit, Apple's new framework for developers who want to build AR apps for iPad and iPhone users.

"By blending digital objects and information with the environment around you, ARKit takes apps beyond the screen, freeing them to interact with the real world in entirely new ways," according to Apple. Using the cameras, processors and motion sensors built into iOS devices,

"ARKit allows developers to tap into the latest computer vision technologies to build detailed and compelling virtual content on top of real-world scenes for interactive gaming, immersive shopping experiences, industrial design and more."

New App Store Now Live

Meanwhile, the iOS 11 update will improve digital assistant Siri's voice and language capabilities with the help of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Among the upgraded features for Siri will be new and more natural male and female voice options and the ability to translate English words and phrases into five languages: French, German, Italian, Mandarin, and Spanish.

Siri will also use upgraded on-device learning to take user experiences on one app to other apps. For example, based on searches made using the Safari browser, Siri will be able to offer more personalized place and topic suggestions on Mail, Messages and other apps.

Other updates arriving with iOS 11 include new Loop and Bounce effects for photos, Apple Pay payments via Messages and Siri, and a "do not disturb" feature that can be enabled while driving.

Apple this week also launched an updated App Store that adds original editorial features, a "Today" tab for daily announcements about new features, and other new tabs for Games, Apps and Updates.

According to recent reports, Apple plans to launch three new iPhones this year sometime after the release of iOS 11: an iPhone 7s and iPhone 7s Plus, and a new flagship phone rumored to be named the "iPhone Edition".

While manufacturing has been said to be delayed because of supply issues, mass production of the new iPhones has now started, Latvian designer Benjamin Geskin noted in a tweet yesterday. Geskin also posted schematic images that purport to show the design of the new iPhone.

mobile-tech-today.com

GoPro's Palm-Sized Fusion 360 Camera Is The Equivalent Of 6 GoPros

June 8, 2017

Ignore the Wall Street narrative. GoPro is far from dead and still innovating with its cameras.

The action camera — CEO Nick Woodman prefers "lifestyle" instead — company released a trio of solid products last year (Hero5 Black, Hero5 session, and Karma drone) with the sole goal of rejuvenating the brand and doubling down on its new mission to make video editing effortless for everyone.

At this year's Mountain Games in Vail, Colorado, GoPro gave a very select group of media a first look at its next game-changing product: the GoPro Fusion 360-degree camera.

GoPro's been talking about the vast potential of 360-degree cameras for years. In 2015, Woodman told me: "It's gonna happen. We're making spherical cameras."

That camera is the Fusion. First teased in April, the Fusion is the company's first consumer 360-degree camera. That's an important distinction from the GoPro Omni, a 360-degree/VR cube rig that holds six Hero4 Black cameras capable of capturing footage in 8K resolution, and costs a whopping \$5,000.

Though I was able to touch the Fusion, GoPro is still withholding many key details for a later date. We don't know much of the specs or the price, but since it's aimed at the mass market, I'm hoping it's competitive to favorites like Samsung's \$230 Gear 360 or Ricoh's \$350 Theta.

My guess is the Fusion will cost more than those two since it shoots higher resolution spherical videos.

Like the Omni, GoPro says the 360-degree videos captured by the Fusion's two spherical lenses are the equivalent of six GoPros cameras. No details on the field of view, but they're most likely fisheye.

360 videos are captured in 5.2K resolution at 30 frames per second.

GoPro showed me the "Relive Reality" 360 video trailer with a Samsung Gear VR, which made the footage look even more impressive than it did on YouTube through a web browser.

Perhaps, the most extraordinary feature is the Fusion's stitching.

GoPro says it'll share more details later, but from what I saw in the Gear VR, there's none of the usual patchiness at the base of the 360 camera, where most 360 cameras can't see.

This patchiness usually horrifically stitches the tripod or your hand; some 360 videos cover this up with a circle or a logo, but it's hideous and breaks the immersion that 360/VR videos are supposed to bring to the table.

Design-wise, the Fusion fits right in with the Hero5 Black and Hero5 Session. The square-shaped 360 camera is roughly the size of two Hero5 Black cameras (palm-sized) and just as thick, too. Look closely at its profile and you can see a slight taper.

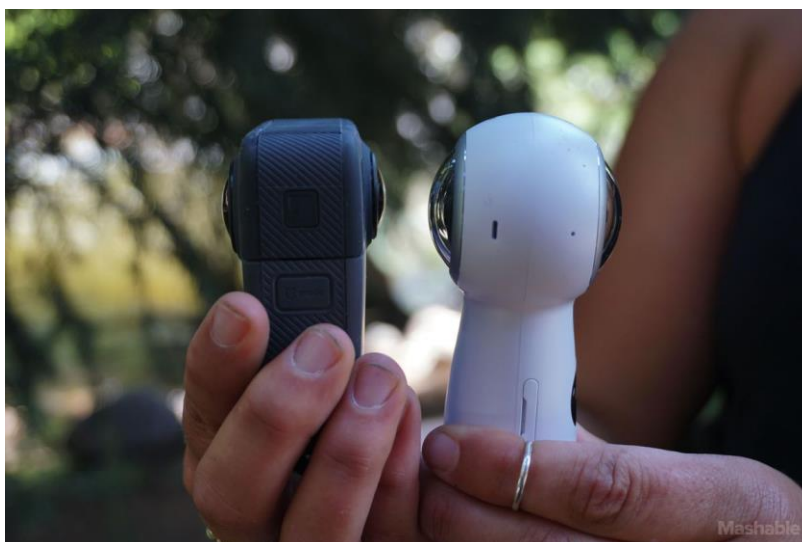
It's got a grippy rubberized and ribbed dark and light gray pattern. There's a latch for the battery and presumably a microSD card slot for storage and a USB-C port.

There's a display about the same size as the one on the Hero5 Black and a record button on the front. You'll also find a Mode button on the right side and what appears to be holes for a microphone on the backside. And if you're worried about scratching or damaging the lenses, not to worry! The camera comes with a little soft pouch.

But what if you buy a Fusion and still want to capture regular flat, non-spherical video. Well, good news because the Fusion's got a killer feature called "OverCapture" that lets you pluck out flat video from any viewpoint in a spherical video. In other words, you'll never have to worry about cinematography again.

GoPro reps shot with a few Fusions at the Mountain Games and I'm told I'll get some of the footage soon, so stay tuned for that. As for release date, Jess Foley, the product lead on Fusion, told me it'll launch soon; whether that's in a few months or by the end of the year, she wouldn't specify. Although I only got to play with it for a little bit, I'm already excited, especially for OverCapture.

I know you probably have a lot of questions that I can't answer right now, so I'll leave you with a few images. Here's some comparison shots of the Fusion with the new Gear 360:



mashable.com

Emerging Technology

Amazon's Latest Software Can Identify Celebrities, Even Jeff Bezos

June 8, 2017

In news that may either delight you or creep you out, Amazon Web Services has updated its image recognition software to identify celebrities including Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos and presumably Jennifer Lawrence or any number of actors listed in the Internet Movie Database.

Image recognition is a key subset of artificial intelligence that, as the name implies, can tell what, and increasingly who, is in a photograph. And, it is a key battleground for Microsoft, Google, Facebook, and Amazon.

"The latest is that Amazon Rekognition software, which debuted last fall, has been updated so it can identify hundreds of thousands of famous or prominent people..."

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The latest is that Amazon Rekognition software, which debuted last fall, has been updated so it can identify hundreds of thousands of famous or prominent people including politicians, athletes, actors, and business and media leaders from around the world, according to a company blog post.

Developers can use this tool to add image recognition to their own software. The first version could determine if a picture was of a human face and, within a high probability, identify that person's gender, whether he or she was wearing glasses, was smiling, and other key characteristics. What it did not do is specifically tell you who that person may be. Amazon has now raised the stakes so the software can identify the individual, provided that person is well known.

Developers can use Rekognition to analyze and index their own photo archives and to develop image search tools, according to the blog.

Image recognition could theoretically be used, in an interactive retail display to tell if someone standing nearby is a man or a woman and adjust the sales pitch accordingly. But as the technology gets better at identifying actual individuals, who knows where it will end up. Facebook (fb, -0.63%), for example, can now identify people in pictures even if they are not tagged with the person's name.

fortune.com

Soon, iPhones Will Block Texts While Driving

June 6, 2017

Soon, Apple will introduce a new iPhone feature that will do away with that annoying -- and dangerous -- urge to look at a text message while you're driving.

The feature, called "Do Not Disturb While Driving," will be part of Apple's iOS 11, a new version of the operating software for Apple mobile devices. Whenever the phone is connected to a car using either Bluetooth or a cable, or if the car is moving, the phone will withhold any notifications for things like text messages or news updates. If someone does text you while you're driving, the phone can respond with an automatic message telling them you're driving and can't respond just now.

The iPhone screen will also be locked to prevent drivers from using many of their apps while driving. Passengers who are just riding will have the ability to indicate that they are not driving and disable the feature. Users will be able to see Apple Maps, Apple's navigation application, while driving -- though they will be unable to input destinations. Other navigation apps, like Google Maps, will also work, although not quite as easily.

Drivers will still be able to use Apple CarPlay, of course, in cars that are equipped with it. Apple CarPlay is a car interface specifically designed to allow drivers to hear and respond to text messages using voice commands and to safely use other iPhone features while driving. It's available from a number of automobile manufacturers, including General Motors, Fiat Chrysler, BMW and Honda, and works through a computer screen in the car.

Nissan has proposed adding a so-called Faraday cage to its cars. This would be a box built in to the car that would block radio transmissions of any kind from reaching the phone. That would be another way to prevent distracting texts while driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, eight people are killed each day in crashes involving distracted driving,

cnn.com

Mergers and Acquisitions

Digital Realty Agrees To Buy DuPont Fabros for \$4.95 Billion

June 9, 2017

“The companies said the deal would allow them to save as much as \$18 million in costs a year.”

Digital Realty Trust Inc. agreed to buy DuPont Fabros Technology Inc. for about \$4.95 billion in stock, a deal that would add to its data-center properties in areas such as California’s Silicon Valley.

Investors in Washington-based DuPont Fabros will get 0.545 Digital Realty shares for each of their shares, the real estate investment trusts said in a statement Friday. That values DuPont Fabros stock at \$63.63 a share, about 15 percent more than Thursday’s closing price. The companies said the transaction has an enterprise value of \$7.6 billion, including \$1.6 billion of debt.

The deal would allow San Francisco-based Digital Realty to grow in top markets such as northern Virginia, Chicago and Silicon Valley. The combined company would be the largest wholesale data-center REIT in the U.S., analysts at KeyBank Capital Markets said in a note to clients. The transaction would be a boon for the entire sector, reducing competition and helping balance price control, the analysts wrote.

Acquiring DuPont Fabros’ purpose-built data centers “will significantly expand Digital Realty’s hyper-scale product offering and improve its ability to meet the rapidly growing needs of cloud and cloud-like customers,” Digital Realty said in the statement. DuPont Fabros also has six data-center projects under construction that are 48 percent pre-leased.

DuPont Fabros shares jumped 13 percent to \$62.55 at 10:17 a.m. New York time. Digital Realty slipped 0.9 percent to \$115.73.

The companies said the deal would allow them to save as much as \$18 million in costs a year. The combined entity is expected to have the highest earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization -- a measure of profitability -- of any U.S.-based publicly traded data center REIT, according to the statement.

The transaction, expected to close in the second half of the year, is subject to shareholder approval.

bloomberg.com

Google Sells Maker Of 'Nightmare-Inducing' Robots To Japan's SoftBank

June 9, 2017

Google is ditching one of its highest-profile robotics businesses, selling it off to a Japanese tech giant.

Japan's SoftBank announced Friday that it's buying robot maker Boston Dynamics from Google's parent Alphabet, saying the deal will help it in its aim to be at the forefront of "the next wave of smart robotics."

Boston Dynamics has repeatedly made headlines with its eye-catching robots, which can run, jump and climb stairs. Its CEO has described one of them as "nightmare inducing."

SoftBank's billionaire CEO Masayoshi Son has made no secret of his enthusiasm for robots: he's widely quoted as saying they will outnumber humans in 30 years. SoftBank is one of the companies behind Pepper, which has been billed as the world's first robot capable of reading human emotions.

Under the deal announced Friday, SoftBank will also buy five-year old Japanese robotics firm Schaft from Alphabet. It didn't say how much it was paying for either business.

The sale of Boston Dynamics marks a swift exit by Alphabet, which snapped up the company less than four years ago as part of a broader push into the field of robotics. That approach -- which saw Google invest in another seven robotics firms including Schaft in 2013 alone -- was led by Andy Rubin, the co-founder and former leader of the search giant's Android mobile unit.

Rubin left Google in 2014 to launch an incubator for tech startups.

Alphabet decided to sell Boston Dynamics after concluding that it wasn't likely to produce a marketable product in the next few years, Bloomberg reported. An Alphabet spokesman declined to comment on the reasons behind the sale.

"Robotics as a field has great potential, and we're happy to see Boston Dynamics and Schaft join the SoftBank team to continue contributing to the next generation of robotics," he said.

Boston Dynamics started in 1992 as a spinoff from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where it claims to have developed the first robots that ran and maneuvered like animals.

It now boasts a suite of advanced machines, including one that can run as fast as 32 kilometers an hour (20 mph). Another is designed to accompany Marines on duty while carrying loads of up to 500 kilos (about 1,100 pounds).

SoftBank last year set out its vision of branching into smart robotics, artificial intelligence and the so-called Internet of Things alongside its core telecoms business.

The announcement followed its \$32 billion acquisition of U.K.-based chip designer ARM, which itself was seen as the Japanese firm's wager on growth in demand for internet connectivity in everyday devices.

Last month, SoftBank and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund launched the so-called Vision Fund, a \$100 billion vehicle that will invest in areas including robotics and AI.

cnn.com

Industry Reports

AT&T Invests Nearly \$1.3 Billion Over 3-Year Period To Enhance Local Networks In San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont Area

June 8, 2017

At AT&T, we've invested nearly \$1.3 billion in our San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont wireless and wired networks during 2014-2016. These investments enhance reliability, coverage, speed and overall performance for residents and businesses. They also improve critical services that support public safety and first responders.

Across the Northern California region, AT&T completed 1,459 LTE capacity upgrades, 45 LTE overlays, and 23 new cell sites in 2016, boosting network capacity and new wireless high-speed internet connections. The AT&T LTE network covers nearly 400 million people in North America.

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"Across the Northern California region, AT&T completed 1,459 LTE capacity upgrades, 45 LTE overlays, and 23 new cell sites in 2016, boosting network capacity and new wireless high-speed internet connections."

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"We know that Californians demand a world-class communications network, and we're committed to maintaining and growing our wired and wireless networks to provide our customers with the fast, reliable, highly secure connectivity they expect, in every corner of the state," said Ken McNeely, president of AT&T California.

"We're proud that our continued investment across California is driving innovation and opening up new possibilities for consumers and entrepreneurs."

Notable San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont network enhancements in 2016 included:

- Upgrading all of our cell sites surrounding "Big Game" activities in San Francisco to accommodate the large gathering of visitors expected throughout the week of the 50th edition of pro football's "Big Game."
- Adding a new, free Wi-Fi system at San Francisco's Pier 39, which benefits all mobile customers in the area.
- Upgrading existing systems at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) through the addition of new DAS to terminals 2, 3 and the international terminal.
- Replacing the existing DAS at Oakland International Airport (OAK) with a brand new and robust state-of-the-art DAS.

The First Responder Network Authority recently chose AT&T to build a nationwide public safety broadband network. The network will be dedicated to America's police, firefighters and EMS personnel. Should California opt-in to the FirstNet network, we will build upon our current and planned investments with a dedicated focus on the state's first responders.

And we would expect to make a significant investment to upgrade and maintain California's FirstNet network over the next 25 years, bringing your first responders the coverage, value and experience they expect.

For the third year in a row, FORTUNE magazine recognized AT&T as the Most Admired Telecommunications Company in the world in 2017.

We also placed No. 37 among the Top 50 World's Most Admired companies.

AT&T is the only communications company on the list. We ranked No. 1 in all 9 attributes. This included innovation, financial soundness and quality of products/services.

We continue to expand the scope of our ultra-fast internet powered by AT&T Fiber. We now market our ultra-fast internet service powered by AT&T Fiber to more than 125,000 customer locations in the San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont area.

We have the largest fiber network within our 21-state wireline footprint.² We also now market a 1 gigabit connection³ on our 100% fiber network to 4.6 million locations across 52 major metro areas. We plan to reach at least 75 major metros overall. We expect to add 2 million locations in 2017, and we plan to reach at least 12.5 million locations by mid-2019.

We have an extensive Wi-Fi network with more than 40,000 AT&T Wi-Fi Hot Spots at popular restaurants, hotels, bookstores and retailers. And we provide access to Wi-Fi at more than 1 million locations around the world.

Most AT&T smartphone customers and home internet customers get access to our national Wi-Fi network⁴ at no added cost. Wi-Fi usage doesn't count towards customers' monthly wireless data plans.

prnewswire.com

Cisco: Global IP Traffic From Smartphones Will Quadruple By 2021

June, 8 2017

A massive rise in mobile data traffic has been playing out over the past several years, but a new forecast from Cisco indicates the global average internet traffic on smartphones is set to more than quadruple by the start of the next decade.

According to Cisco's latest Visual Networking Index report, the global average IP traffic from smartphones is set to skyrocket from 3,500 MB per month per device in 2016 to 14,900 MB per month per device by 2021. Tablet IP traffic worldwide is also set to rise from 9,100 MB per month per device to 25,600 MB per month in the forecast period. All told, smartphones are set to account for a third of global IP traffic in 2021, up from 13 percent in 2016, while non-PC devices overall will make up three-quarters of worldwide IP traffic.

Globally, internet traffic per user per month across devices is expected to hit 61 GB by 2021, more than double the 24 GB seen in 2016. That figure is even higher for North America, which is expected to see a stunning 181 GB of internet traffic per user across their devices in 2021.

Cisco's report indicated that much of this traffic will continue to be driven by video. By the end of the forecast period, video is expected to account for 82 percent of total IP traffic, up from 73 percent in 2016.

But cellular networks won't be carrying this load alone. While WiFi and mobile-connected devices will generate 73 percent of internet traffic in 2021, 53 percent of internet access will flow over WiFi. Only 20 percent of internet traffic will be carried on cellular networks, and fixed access will make up the remaining 27 percent. Still though, cellular's portion in 2021 will be up 10 percentage points from 2016, when it was carrying 10 percent of the load and fixed was carrying 38 percent. The average mobile internet speed in North America is expected to nearly double from 13.7 Mbps in 2016 to 25 Mbps in 2021.

To support the increasing burden, Cisco predicted there will also be an exponential increase in the number of WiFi hotspots from 85 million in 2016 to 526.2 million in 2021. China and the United States will lead hotspot growth, coming in with 170 million and 86 million hotspots respectively by 2021.

wirelessweek.com



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