



## Inside This Issue:

### This Week's Stories

[AT&T Offering Those Without Power A Place To Charge Phones](#)

[Everything You Need To Know About Today's Apple Watch And iPhone Event](#)

### Products & Services

[Hulu Gets A New Look On PS4, PS3](#)

[Report: Amazon's Next Fire TV Will Double As An Echo](#)

[Ahead Of iPhone X Day, Samsung Teases 2018 Foldable Phone Launch Plan](#)

### Emerging Technology

[Twitter Is Experimenting With An In-App Tweetstorm Feature](#)

[Facebook Testing Instant Videos That Download Over Wi-Fi](#)

### Mergers & Acquisitions

[Can Lyft Pass Uber With \\$1B Boost From Alphabet?](#)

[Vodafone Helps Move VMware Workloads To IBM Cloud](#)

[AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile And Verizon Team Up To Develop Mobile Authentication Solution](#)

### Industry Reports

[State Regulators Finalize \\$13M Settlement With Cable Provider Charter](#)

[Mobile Network Testing At MWCA Day 1: Which Carrier Performed Best?](#)

[Charter Teams With Samsung On 5G As MSO's Top Wireless Executive Addresses Mobile World Congress](#)

## This Week's Stories

### AT&T Offering Those Without Power A Place To Charge Phones

September 13, 2017

AT&T is offering those without power a chance to charge their phones and tablets at their stores.

The company has opened up all their company-owned AT&T stores for customers needing to power up.

The only stores that are not open as charging stations are those located in Florida City, Hialeah, Kendall and Dadeland. In Broward, the only store not partaking is the location in Tamarac.

They have also set up a charging station at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Center. This station is for evacuees being sheltered there.

Their station—a trailer—can charge up to 60 devices at one time and is near the Fuchs Pavilion.

Several hundred people, many who evacuated from the Florida Keys, are being housed at the site.

Those staying there also have Wi-Fi so they can file their FEMA claims.

[miami.cbslocal.com](http://miami.cbslocal.com)

### Everything You Need To Know About Today's Apple Watch And iPhone Event

September 12, 2017

Apple's iPhone event today was as much about the highly-anticipated iPhone 8 and iPhone X as it was an homage to the company's impressive feats with consumer technology over the last 10 years.

Over the course of two hours on Tuesday, Apple delivered on many of the rumors of the last several months: three new iPhones (iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus, and the iPhone X) and a long-awaited update to Apple Watch that allows users to connect directly through cellular instead having to pair the Watch with an iPhone. And it wouldn't be an Apple event without on-stage demos by Apple executives bragging about the new products and what they can do.

#### Steve Jobs Theater And Apple Park

Apple CEO Tim Cook kicked off the show with a tribute to late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs while dedicating the new theater at the company's Apple Park in Cupertino, Calif. to the co-founder, who died in 2011. An emotional Cook said Apple would always honor Jobs and his contributions.

Cook followed that up with a brief discussion about Apple Park, saying that Apple would begin moving its employees into the facility later this year. Apple's retail chief Angela Ahrendts also came on stage to discuss the company's new retail store designs, featuring a plaza for shoppers to come together, a forum for customers to collaborate, and a boardroom in which businesspeople can work together.



Apple has been working on the new retail store experiences over the last year and will continue to open stores with the design in the future.

### iPhone 8

The iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus are updated versions of last year's iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus, featuring glass backs and slightly modified designs. The glass, according to Apple, is the strongest it has ever offered in a smartphone.

The iPhone 8 line comes in silver, space grey, and gold finishes, and feature water- and dust-resistant designs. The iPhone 8 has a 4.7-inch screen, while the iPhone 8 Plus comes with a 5.5-inch display. Inside, users will find the A11 Bionic chip, which Apple said, is the most powerful the company has ever included in an iPhone. Apple's iPhone 8 comes with a 12-megapixel single-lens camera, while the iPhone 8 Plus has two 12-megapixel rear cameras. Both cameras should deliver better photos and videos.

Apple's new smartphones also work with augmented reality (AR) apps, maximizing the smartphone's ability to be used with services that mix real and virtual elements.

The new iPhone 8 and its close cousin are also designed for wireless charging. Users will be able to place their iPhones on a charging pad to charge their batteries instead of having to plug them in. The feature uses the Qi wireless charging standard, which means that many existing charging accessories already on the market will work with the devices.

Apple's iPhone 8 price starts at \$699. The iPhone 8 Plus starts at \$799. Preorders will begin Sept. 15 while availability is set for Sept. 22. Apple's iOS 11, which is used in iPhone 8 devices, will be available as a free download on Sept. 19.

### iPhone X

After months of speculation, Apple also showcased the iPhone X (pronounced iPhone "10" and not iPhone "ex"), a device that comes with a screen that nearly covers its face, a glass finish, and a stainless steel spine.

The screen, which "Super Retina Display," measures 5.8 inches. The "super" ostensibly comes from its size and its resolution, which is the highest Apple has ever included in a smartphone. The screen is also the first from Apple to use organic light-emitting diode (OLED), instead of the liquid-crystal display that Apple has used in all other iPhones, including the iPhone 8.

Because there's no home button in the iPhone X, users must tap on the screen to wake it up. Getting to the iPhone X's home screen requires swiping up from the bottom. To unlock the iPhone X, there's a new feature called Face ID—the successor the Touch ID fingerprint sensor. The new feature lets users unlock their devices by scanning their own faces. Apple called Face ID the "future" of unlocking devices and protecting data.

To operate Face ID, users hold the iPhone X so that front-facing sensors can analyze its owner's face and verify his or her identity. Face ID will work even if that person's face changes over time, such as a new beard or glasses. It is also said to be impervious to being fooled by being shown a photo of a person's face.

The iPhone X come with dual 12-megapixel cameras that can take better pictures with higher resolutions than those in the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus.

Internally, the iPhone X runs on Apple's A11 Bionic chip, the same as the iPhone 8 line. It also comes with wireless charging and should have longer battery life than last year's iPhone 7 line, according to Apple.

Apple also unveiled a new wireless charging pad that works with iPhone 8, iPhone X, Apple Watch Series 3, and the company's AirPods wireless earbuds. They all can be charged at the same time, and the iPhone's display can be used to show how much battery life remains. The charging pad is called AirPower and will be available next year.

Apple's iPhone X will be available in 64GB and 256GB configurations starting at \$999. It'll be available for pre-order on Oct. 27 and will start shipping on Nov. 3.

### Apple Watch

Apple updated its Apple Watch software, including a heart rate measuring tool that alerts users to increased heart rate that is unrelated to increased activity—a sign of a potential health problem. Apple Watch can also detect heart arrhythmia. Apple's WatchOS 4, the new software, also includes better fitness tracking. It will be available as a free download on Sept. 19.

Next, Apple announced the long-rumored Apple Watch Series 3, an updated version of its smartwatch. The device comes with cellular connectivity, meaning it won't need to be wirelessly connected to an iPhone to access data. The cellular connection can also be used for placing and receiving calls and will work with the same phone number users have on their iPhones.

Apple Watch Series 3 has a nearly identical design to the Apple Watch Series 2, but it has a red dot on its crown for design flair. It also comes with a more powerful processor for faster app performance.

Apple's new smartwatch will work across major carrier networks, including AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile.

Price: Apple Watch Series 3 starts at \$329 for versions without cellular connectivity. People want the cellular version can get it at a \$399 starting price. It'll be available to order on Sept. 15 and will reach store shelves on Sept. 22.

### Apple TV

As expected, Apple has unveiled a new set-top box the company calls the Apple TV 4K, a device that can accommodate ultra-high-definition video resolution. The new box also works with high dynamic range (HDR) for improved color accuracy.

The Apple TV 4K comes with the same A10X Fusion chip available in the company's iPad Pro tablet, which should make for faster performance and compatibility with higher-end video games. Apple has also signed deals with film studios to make 4K films and other content available through its service. Live news and live sports will also be available in the Apple TV's "TV" app.

Apple TV 4K is available in a 32GB configuration for \$179 and a 64GB version for \$199. A version without 4K version costs \$149. Orders start Sept. 15; availability starts Sept. 22.

[fortune.com](http://fortune.com)

## Products & Services

### Hulu Gets A New Look On PS4, PS3

September 14, 2017

*"Hulu said the new user interface will make it easier to find shows you'll love."*

The next time you fire up Hulu on your PlayStation, things will look a little different.

Hulu on Wednesday announced it is rolling out its new user interface to all PS4 and PS3 systems. Those who subscribe to Hulu's \$7.99 per month Limited Commercials or \$11.99 per month No Commercials plans will automatically receive the update.

Hulu said the new user interface will make it easier to find shows you'll love. "The more a viewer watches, the more tailored the service gets," Hulu's Head of Experience Ben Smith wrote in a blog post.

You can find shows and movies to watch in four sections: Home, My Stuff, Browse, and Search. Home will show the most "timely and relevant content, specific to you based on your viewing history and preferences," Smith wrote.

My Stuff is where you'll find the shows and movies you've selected to keep track of. When you first start using the new Hulu experience, you'll have the option to import your Watchlist into My Stuff. Hulu will remember what you've already watched, what you still need to finish, and will let you know if any of your saved content is expiring soon.

If there's nothing in those two sections to watch, head over to Browse to explore the entire Hulu library, or use the Search function to find a specific title.

Hulu said it plans to roll out this new experience to even more devices in the near future.

The update comes after Hulu in May launched a new Live TV service, which offers access to 50 different live TV channels, with a cloud-based DVR, for \$39.99 per month. The Live TV service is currently in beta, but available to all customers who want to subscribe.

[pcmag.com](http://pcmag.com)

### Report: Amazon's Next Fire TV Will Double As An Echo

September 12, 2017

Amazon's next flagship Fire TV will come with advanced voice assistant capabilities, according to a report by AFTVNews. If the leak holds up, Amazon is basically combining the Fire TV and Echo lines into one all-powerful set-top box.

Leak images show a new device shaped like a cube with volume buttons and holes for the far-field microphones. A blue LED strip matches the classic Echo aesthetic, too. Interestingly, the device is reported to have an IR emitter for controlling your TV and other devices that don't support making adjustments via the HDMI-CEC standard.

It makes a lot of sense to combine the Fire TV and Echo; it saves space and TV's are usually located in living spaces where you'd want to use a voice assistant anyway. It's also likely this new speaker would be able to connect to your home's sound system, giving it much better sound quality than what can be afforded by a tiny box.

Unfortunately, we don't have any specs on the device, but we imagine it'll be able to play 4K HDR video, given it's 2017 and all. Considering the device is rumored to be released before the end of the year, it would be a shot across the bow to Apple's 4K Apple TV, which will almost certainly be announced at tomorrow's iPhone X/8 event.

Amazon is also reported to be working on a smaller Fire TV dongle that hangs off the back of your TV like a Chromecast. It adds 4K HDR to the existing Fire Stick, which will remain as a budget option.

The devices are rumored to be announced before the end of the year, perhaps as soon as this month. I'm going to go ahead and guess the voice-capable model is called the Amazon Fire Echo, which sounds like quite the interesting physical phenomenon.

[thenextweb.com](http://thenextweb.com)

## Ahead Of iPhone X Day, Samsung Teases 2018 Foldable Phone Launch Plan

September 12, 2017

Apple is preparing to draw scores of eyes to Cupertino later today as it unboxes a clutch of new iPhones, including a new premium handset, called the iPhone X, slated to have a near bezel-less OLED display, a 3D face unlock feature and a \$1,000+ price-tag, while bringing various new camera and feature tweaks — many of which have leaked in recent weeks.

Even so, the new iPhones are set to look like, well, iPhones — aka slabs of expensively shiny glass.

So what better time for rival Samsung to tease that it might finally be nearing the point of outing something rather different: A smartphone with a foldable screen — encouraging consumers who might be thinking of shelling out serious bucks for Apple's new glass slabs to think twice.

Bloomberg reports that Koh Dong-jin, president of Samsung's mobile business, has said the company is setting its sights on 2018 to release a smartphone with a bendable display.

"As the head of the business, I can say our current goal is next year," he told reporters. "When we can overcome some problems for sure, we will launch the product."

He was speaking at a press event in South Korea announcing the Galaxy Note 8 phablet to domestic media. The future foldable phone is intended to sit in the same Galaxy Note portfolio line-up, according to his comments.

Samsung has been teasing the fact it's working on a bendable device for multiple years now — showing investors a range of folding prototypes in 2013, and teasing bendy screen concepts (branded Youm) at CES that year. Though its tests date back further still, while it's been showing off concept videos of flexible devices for a similarly long time.

But while Samsung has been happy to scatter suggestive tidbits about its folding phone plans over the years, the date for a potential commercial release has never been firm ed up. Instead possible release years have been mentioned then pushed further forward in time — apparently as it encountered new manufacturing complications.

So it's fair to say that the latest claim — that 2018 might finally be the year of the folding phone — should be taken with a large pinch of salt. Especially as the timing of the tease coincides with the most important date in the Apple calendar: iPhone X day.

*"A smartphone with a foldable screen — encouraging consumers who might be thinking of shelling out serious bucks for Apple's new glass slabs to think twice."*

And, well, let's face it, concept smartphones don't have a great record of ever seeing the light of day either.

Even if you assume Samsung has made some progress on its bendable prototypes, having worked on the concept for more than five years at this point, there's no doubt that creating a screen robust enough to be opened and closed (and prodded) as much as 150 times+ a day by touchscreen-addicted humans is a huge challenge.

And after the flaming disaster of the Galaxy Note 7, which had to be recalled after some batteries caught fire, the risk-margin for Samsung on this potential release must be very tight indeed...

No one wants a folding phone if that means screen glitches and/or a handset that feels tacky and whose dimensions hark back to the heft of late 1990s mobile devices.

(For the record, Samsung's folding phone has been rumored to be called the Galaxy X. So Apple's choice of premium brand name for its top tier new iPhone is probably causing more than a little irritation in South Korea.)

Bloomberg also reported Samsung's Dong-jin saying it's working with audio device maker Harman, which it acquired last year, to develop an artificial intelligence-enabled speaker for voice commanding to play music and conduct other tasks — aka an Amazon Echo inspired Apple HomePod clone in the making.

[techcrunch.com](http://techcrunch.com)

## Emerging Technology

### Twitter Is Experimenting With An In-App Tweetstorm Feature

September 12, 2017

Twitter is experimenting with a feature that lets people draft out an entire Tweetstorm, or string of tweets, and then send them out all together.

The feature was first pointed out by Matt Navara, director of Social Media at The Next Web, on Twitter.

The feature is not yet live in Twitter's app but it appears it's been rolled out to a small test group for now.

Twitter frequently experiments with new features — some of which are never publicly released — that simplify user behavior the company sees on the app.

Today, users who want to create a string of connected tweets — or a Tweetstorm — have to manually reply to each of their previous tweets. This feature its testing would allow people to draft all the tweets in the same place, all at once and then automatically send it out as a threaded conversation.

One of Twitter's most defining characteristics is that it limits users to sharing no more than 140 characters at a time. Tweetstorms give users a way to try and share longer thoughts in one place in a way that makes it easy for others to follow.

Twitter has considered expanding the character limit in the past. A few years ago, the company internally discussed raising the limit to 10,000 characters, but ultimately decided to keep tweets shorter.

[msn.com](#)

## Facebook Testing Instant Videos That Download Over Wi-Fi

September 12, 2017

*“Downloading them on Wi-Fi also saves cellular data and might encourage more viewing on mobile, since people will know they don’t have to eat into their cellular plan.”*

Facebook is testing a new feature that makes sure you’ll always have videos ready to watch — and you won’t have to waste your data plan downloading them.

The feature is called Instant Videos, and it appears to download various Facebook videos while you’re connected to Wi-Fi so that they’ll be able to start playing immediately on your phone when you’re inside the app. The feature was first spotted by The Next Web’s Matt Navarra and was later confirmed by TechCrunch.

Instant Videos appear to serve a few different purposes. For one, Facebook cares a ton about video right now, and it can potentially boost viewership and improve the viewing experience by having clips ready to go, without any loading time. Downloading them on Wi-Fi also saves cellular data and might encourage more viewing on mobile, since people will know they don’t have to eat into their cellular plan.

It’s also possible that, like Instant Articles — the quick-loading news stories that Facebook hosts for publishers — Facebook could be looking for stronger control over its video ecosystem and could grant publishers certain benefits for making videos that fall within its guidelines. For now though, Facebook doesn’t seem to be doing that.

Facebook confirmed to TechCrunch that it’s testing Instant Videos with a small percentage of people using its Android app. There’s no indication yet of whether this feature will roll out wider. It’s not entirely clear how Facebook is putting it to use either, such as whether these videos are ones that would algorithmically appear at the top of your News Feed, or if they come from Facebook’s new video hub.

I’m not personally all that excited for this feature: the 16GB of storage on my phone is perpetually close to running out, and I’d rather not have random videos that I’m probably not interested in taking up space. But I can certainly see it being helpful for people whose main data problems come from their cell plan, and not their phone storage.

[msn.com](#)

## Mergers and Acquisitions

### Can Lyft Pass Uber With \$1B Boost From Alphabet?

September 14, 2017

Lyft isn’t the first company most people think of when it comes to hailing a ride.

But its larger rival Uber could really be in for a drag race if a reported \$1 billion investment by Google-parent Alphabet comes to pass. Bloomberg’s story late Thursday cited unnamed sources. Lyft and Alphabet declined to comment.

That sort of money would allow Lyft to ratchet up its competition for drivers domestically — Uber has long used the billions in its coffers to help lure drivers with incentives — as well as consider an international expansion.

Alphabet's possible investment in Lyft comes at a time when the search giant is squaring off in court against Uber, which it has accused of building self-driving car sensor technology based on trade secrets stolen by a former Google car engineer, Anthony Levandowski. The engineer, who has since left Uber, founded self-driving truck company Otto, which was bought last year by Uber.

Lyft and Alphabet's friendly relationship ramped up last spring.

In May, Lyft announced a partnership with Alphabet presumably designed to find a vehicular home for the self-driving car technology being developed by Waymo, the new name for Google's eight-year-old autonomous vehicle program. Most experts believe self-driving cars will be rolled out first as part of a commercial ride-hailing fleet.

Uber once dominated the U.S. ride-hailing scene with around 90% of the market, but according to some surveys Lyft has whittled that down to around 75% as Uber has continued to grapple with a series of scandals.

In 2017 alone, the company was accused of fostering a toxic workplace by a former female engineer, lost its CEO and co-founder Travis Kalanick to an investor coup and has been hit with a series of federal probes into internal programs that skirted the law.

[usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com)

## Vodafone Helps Move VMware Workloads To IBM Cloud

September 12, 2017

Vodafone and IBM have teamed up to offer businesses the ability to move their VMware workloads on a Vodafone Hosted Private Cloud to and from the IBM Cloud.

Vodafone claimed this would offer companies - wherever they're based around the world - compliance with data regulations as well as a faster method for moving workloads.

It also supports a truly hybrid cloud environment, the company said, offering the benefits of both on-premise and cloud infrastructure without the latency usually associated with moving workloads between the two.

Vodafone's director of cloud and hosting services, Greg Hyttenrauch, said: "The combination of our network and our Hosted Private Cloud with the global reach of IBM's capabilities gives customers more flexibility, more choice and the possibility of a true hybrid cloud. There is no doubt in my mind that we are starting out on a long and fruitful relationship."

The service aims to speed up deployment by locating applications closer to users, while keeping businesses' data in a secure environment to ensure compliance with regional data regulations.

"The IBM Cloud is bringing expanded capabilities to Vodafone by providing its customers with quick and easy access to a variety of higher value services across a broader geographical footprint than ever before," Sebastian Krause, general manager IBM Cloud Europe, added. "Through this collaboration, we are further helping enterprises take advantage of the opportunity and value of hybrid cloud."

VMware added that it's pleased to see Vodafone and IBM teaming up to offer its customers the chance to innovate in the cloud, using its cross-cloud architecture.

*"The service aims to speed up deployment by locating applications closer to users, while keeping businesses' data in a secure environment to ensure compliance with regional data regulations."*

"This new offering from Vodafone and IBM will enable businesses to utilise a globally consistent, common operating model for running, managing and securing their workloads across clouds," Ajay Patel, senior vice president of product development and cloud services at VMware, said.

[itpro.co.uk](http://itpro.co.uk)

## AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile And Verizon Team Up To Develop Mobile Authentication Solution

September 11, 2017

September 8, 2017 Today, mobile users are faced with the challenge of managing dozens of difficult to remember passwords for many applications. Even with the best user practices, hackers can social engineer passwords from users, leaving consumers and enterprises vulnerable to identity theft, bank fraud, fraudulent purchases and data theft.

To help tackle this issue, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon are joining forces and resources through the creation of the Mobile Authentication Taskforce. The mission of this taskforce is to develop a mobile authentication solution for enterprises and customers in 2018.

With the four largest U.S. mobile network operators onboard, the Mobile Authentication Taskforce possesses significant capabilities and insights to address this issue, such as network-based device authentication, geo-location and SIM card recognition.

"At a time when online and digital services are commonplace, security and authentication are issues that affect us all," said Alex Sinclair, Chief Technology Officer, GSMA. "Through strong collaboration, the taskforce announced today has the potential to create impactful benefits for U.S. customers by helping to decrease fraud and identity theft, and increase trust in online transactions. Further, we will be working closely with the taskforce to ensure this solution is aligned and interoperable with solutions deployed by operators."

Each company will contribute the resources needed to develop an advanced, mobile authentication solution that will help reduce mobile identity risks by analyzing data and activity patterns on a mobile network to predict, with a high degree of certainty, whether the user is who they say they are.

By taking an open approach to the solution, the taskforce aims to work with the app developer community, industry organizations and third-parties to make this vision a reality. Providing customers with an effortless, safe experience is in the best interest of the public and the industry.

[cellular-news.com](http://cellular-news.com)

## Industry Reports

### State Regulators Finalize \$13M Settlement With Cable Provider Charter

September 14, 2017

State regulators on Thursday announced the finalization of a \$13 million settlement with Charter Communications over Charter's failure to upgrade its network quickly enough after acquiring Time Warner Cable.

*"With the four largest U.S. mobile network operators onboard, the Mobile Authentication Taskforce possesses significant capabilities and insights to address this issue, such as network-based device authentication, geo-location and SIM card recognition."*

The New York State Public Service Commission called it the largest financial settlement with a cable company in state history, and possibly also in the nation's history.

The PSC in January 2016 approved the Charter-Time Warner deal. Under strengthened review standards, Charter agreed to conditions including:

- Delivering broadband speed upgrades to 100 megabits per second statewide by the end of 2018.
- Delivering broadband speed upgrades to 300 Mbps statewide by the end of 2019.
- Building out its network to reach 145,000 un-served or under-served homes and businesses within four years of the closing of the transaction in four equal phases of 36,250 per year.

The PSC said Charter reported it had completed its first speed upgrade ahead of schedule but, in fact, had expanded its network to pass only 15,164 premises, not 36,250, as of May 18, 2017.

Under the revised agreement, Charter will have to reach six expansion increments of 21,646 each through May 18, 2020.

In a prepared statement issued Thursday, Charter said: "Charter has met and even exceeded the vast majority of our key year-one commitments in New York associated with the merger. Delays in pole-attachment approvals and make-ready by pole owners made it impossible to extend our network to the targeted number of homes in the first year post-merger — an important fact that the settlement appropriately reflects. Thousands of upstate consumers now have access to Spectrum services where approvals and make-ready have occurred, and we have a solid deployment plan to reach the thousands of additional homes in our commitment."

Under the settlement, Charter will forfeit its right to earn back up to \$1 million each time it misses a six-month build-out target. The actual amount forfeited will vary, depending upon the percentage of the target that is missed and whether Charter can demonstrate it has performed specific tasks in a timely manner.

Also as part of the settlement agreement, Charter developed a website ([www.bldlkup.com](http://www.bldlkup.com)) to inform homeowners and businesses whether their address is included in Charter's broadband expansion plan.

[dailygazette.com](http://dailygazette.com)

## Mobile Network Testing At MWCA Day 1: Which Carrier Performed Best?

September 13, 2017

For the past few years our partner, Global Wireless Solutions, Inc. (GWS), has been testing the mobile networks at the Mobile World Congress Americas (formerly the CTIA Show). GWS, the largest, most experienced independent provider of network benchmark data, is at it again performing a thorough testing of the Moscone Center halls during MWC Americas 2017 in an effort to see how the wireless networks are serving you during the show.

In order to get the most reliable results possible, GWS testing specialists are methodically walking the aisles as they test every corner of the exhibition halls this week, decked out in GWS monogrammed polos and toting a Rohde & Schwarz's SwissQual Freerider backpack. They are gathering voice and data information simultaneously on the four major wireless carriers: AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. On Tuesday, the team tested the newly-loaded networks as show attendees arrived on the first day of the show. Today, the test specialists will be returning again to test the halls, common spaces, meeting rooms, and walkways between the halls as the strain on each network inevitably increases.

.....  
*"AT&T provided the fastest latencies of around 41 msec, Sprint and T-Mobile were both at 55 msec, while Verizon was sluggish at 125 msec."*

During the Show testing, all voice calls were successful on all major networks. AT&T and Verizon delivered the best voice quality, while Sprint delivered weaker downlink audio throughout the North Hall. T-Mobile and Verizon had the fastest call connection times.

Data tests showed that AT&T used its LTE-CA network 75 percent of the time to deliver the fastest average download throughput of 61 Mbps, coupled with an average upload throughput of 28 Mbps. Next fastest, T-Mobile pushed data to the test devices at a download speed of 48 Mbps with 11 Mbps upload speeds. Sprint relied entirely on its 2500-band TD-LTE network to provide a total of 40 MHz bandwidth to the UE 80 percent of the time, but still fell into third with a 48 Mbps download and 6 Mbps upload. Surprisingly, Verizon was on LTE-CA 90 percent of the time and was the only network that delivered 2CA for a total 40 MHz bandwidth, but clocked in behind the others at a still-impressive 40 Mbps download and 16 Mbps upload. AT&T provided the fastest latencies of around 41 msec, Sprint and T-Mobile were both at 55 msec, while Verizon was sluggish at 125 msec.

Although the Show was in a different location last year, the fastest networks at this year's MWCA Show have data speeds 75 percent faster than at the Sands in Las Vegas last year (61 Mbps versus 35 Mbps), and the slowest networks are four times faster (40 Mbps versus 9 Mbps). Overall, a much improved wireless experience.

[wirelessweek.com](http://wirelessweek.com)

## Charter Teams With Samsung On 5G As MSO's Top Wireless Executive Addresses Mobile World Congress

September 13, 2017

Charter Communications and Samsung will conduct lab and field trials evaluating 5G using 28 GHz spectrum and 4G LTE by using small cells and 3.5 GHz (CBRS) spectrum.

"These tests will provide critical information as Charter prepares to launch a mobile wireless service next year and bring new competition to that marketplace," Charter said in a company statement posted on its corporate blog.

Previously coy about its wireless business development plans, Charter also noted that Craig Cowden, the company's senior VP of wireless technology, is attending Mobile World Congress in San Francisco this week.

"Charter will emphasize an 'inside-out' strategy, focusing first on wireless solutions inside the home and office, and then eventually expanding outdoors," the company said in its statement.

"Charter will create a seamless connectivity experience by combining Wi-Fi with wireless 4G and 5G access technologies. Beginning in 2018, Charter will offer a mobile wireless service to its customers. Operating as a Wi-Fi-first MVNO, Charter will leverage its own pervasive residential, commercial and outdoor Wi-Fi to enhance the connectivity experience. After that, we hope to bolster the quality, speed and capacity of our wireless service using newly available spectrum, such as the 3.5 GHz band and millimeter wave spectrum."

Like Comcast, Charter has an MVNO deal with Verizon, inherited when the company acquired Time Warner Cable. Charter has a joint-venture agreement with Comcast to share wireless development technology and business planning.

As for Cowden, Charter said he will push the company's regulatory message at MWC.

“As we progress on wireless connectivity, it is increasingly important to ensure that the policy environment is favorable to make 5G and licensed small cells a reality for families and businesses across the country,” Charter said. “The FCC has just begun a rule-making proceeding to consider changes to the rules governing the 3.5 GHz (CBRS) band.”

[fiercecable.com](http://fiercecable.com)



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