RURAL BROADBAND

'We've got to make [broadband] a priority, not a buzzword'

Making a connection: Iowa eyeing rural-broadband initiative

Earlier this month, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, in her Condition of the State address, delegated a rural-broadband initiative to Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg. This year, the leaders of the state have kicked off Iowa Broadband Together, which directs statewide structure for expansion and enhancement of broadband capabilities "in every corner of Iowa," according to Reynolds and Gregg's program and budget report for FY 2019.

Alabama launches authentication app to stop tax refund fraud

Residents in Alabama can now add an extra level of security to protect against income tax refund theft. The state has partnered with IDEMIA to create Alabama eID, an electronic credential authenticated by state driver's license issuing agencies.

Apple Unveils mHealth Integration With EMR Data Through Health App

Apple's new iOS upgrade will enable users to collect EMR data from 12 national health systems on their iPhones and iPads. The mHealth integration gives patients an easier pathway to managing their health data.

Some Basic Rules for Securing Your IoT Stuff

Most readers here have likely heard or read various prognostications about the impending doom from the proliferation of poorly-secured "Internet of Things" or IoT devices. Loosely defined as any gadget or gizmo that connects to the Internet but which most consumers probably wouldn't begin to know how to secure, IoT encompasses everything from security cameras, routers and digital video recorders to printers, wearable devices and "smart" lightbulbs.

Generation Z as Customers

There has been a lot written about how Millennials are not buying telecom products at nearly the same rate as old generations. A large percentage of new Millennial homes reject both traditional cable TV and telephone service. They seem to be buying home broadband at about the same rate as those in Gen X.

A New Tax Season, but the Same W-2 Spear Phishing Scam

Last month, the IRS issued an alert warning consumers of an email scam targeting Hotmail users that purported to be a request from the IRS for sensitive information. Although this scam targeted consumers individually, the bigger prize comes from targeting organizations. Once the scammers obtain copies of W-2s, they can move quickly to file fraudulent tax returns that could mirror the actual income received by employees – making the fraud more difficult to detect.

Medical Wearables: How Next Generation Devices Will Change Healthcare

Medical wearables are user-friendly, unobtrusive, and "connected" with features such as wireless data transmission, real-time feedback, and alerting mechanisms. The benefits of utilizing wearable technology extend far beyond the healthcare system, as patients are empowered to take control and monitor their own health.

This self-driving shuttle puts accessibility first

The bus offers a new approach to mass transit, in which a driverless shuttle could someday pick you up at any hour of the day and you wouldn't need to own a car. It's part of a broader trend of companies dabbling in self-driving vehicles as a new

form of transportation.

First 'Jackpotting' Attacks Hit U.S. ATMs

ATM "jackpotting" — a sophisticated crime in which thieves install malicious software and/or hardware at ATMs that forces the machines to spit out huge volumes of cash on demand — has long been a threat for banks in Europe and Asia, yet these attacks somehow have eluded U.S. ATM operators. But all that changed this week after the U.S. Secret Service quietly began warning financial institutions that jackpotting attacks have now been spotted targeting cash machines here in the United States.

Bill updates Iowa's data security protections

Data security breaches at big corporations, including Equifax and Target, spurred the Iowa Attorney General's Office to seek changes to Iowa law to further protect consumers. House Study Bill 526, discussed in a Judiciary subcommittee Tuesday, would update Iowa's data breach notification act, which requires businesses, nonprofits and other entities hit by hackers to alert consumers and the state.

Census wants help evaluating its privacy-preserving software

In a request for information, the Census Bureau said the open source software it's developing for the count is designed to work with confidential data and will perform privacy-preserving data analysis. But because it hopes to freely redistribute its software with test datasets, it wants a third party to audit the software for privacy vulnerabilities.

5 key trends for the future of healthcare

A human embryo's DNA is "edited" to take out a disease. Surgeons practice complicated procedures on models created by 3-D printers. A pre-programmed drone collects blood samples from residents of a rural village and travels back to the capital. These awe-inspiring scenarios have all recently unfolded in what is undoubtedly a golden era of innovation in healthcare.

Charter Testing 5G in Six Markets

Charter Communications added some details to its plans involving wireless broadband, noting this week in a policy-oriented blog post that it's testing 5G-based technology in at least six markets: Orlando, Fla.; Reno, Nev.; Clarksville, Tenn.; Columbus, Ohio; Bakersfield, Calif.; and Grand Rapids, Mich.

Digital technology helps California district improve assessment for English language learners

Leveraging digital technology, TELL is a touchscreen-delivered language proficiency assessment for grades K-12. It takes 20 to 50 minutes for students to complete. English learners read, write, speak and answer questions out loud, and the technology captures their oral responses using innovative speech recognition technology. Students watch highly engaging video clips and interact with pictures and words, and they are also able to write letters or words with their fingers on the screen.

Scam Of The Week: The Most Sophisticated Netflix Phishing Yet

This Netflix phishing campaign goes after your login, credit card, mugshot and ID! Phishing attacks rarely make the news these days, even though (or perhaps precisely because) there are so many of them. Somehow, phishing seems to have turned into an "obvious" problem that everyone is expected to have experienced, learned from, got the better of, and moved on. But phishing is still big business for cybercriminals.

Gov. Reynolds announces new cyber training partnership for young women

GirlsGoCyberStart is a free online game of discovery that offers young women in grades 9-12 the opportunity to learn basic cybersecurity skills and test their cyber aptitude. Participants do not need any prior cybersecurity knowledge or IT experience. The only requirements are a computer and an internet connection