

# Cablefax Daily™

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

## Power Up: Broadband May Hold Key to Solving Power Grid Issues

**Gridmetrics**, a subsidiary of **CableLabs**, has pilots underway with broadband providers and power companies that provide an unprecedented look into the power grid.

It's seen as a way to not only provide information to both the broadband operator and power company, but also as providing more use cases, including for electric vehicles as they become more prevalent. Earlier this month, Gridmetrics President *Scott Caruso* spoke at power grid conference IEEE PES T&D about how such data could be used to inform optimal charging times for vehicles.

It all begins with Gridmetrics' Visibility Platform—a small box that is placed inside existing uninterruptible power supply (UPS) cabinets. There are about 650,000 of these UPS cabinets today in about 90% of U.S. neighborhoods and business parks. "These boxes, what they actually have inside of them, is what makes them interesting. They're battery-backed and they have a cable modem," Caruso said. "So, what we've done is develop a whole new way of observing the grid in real-time, continuously."

The Visibility Platform is being piloted in New Haven, CT, and South Hero, VT, as well as part of Chicago and Virginia. Caruso wouldn't name any operators involved in the trials, but **CFX** will note that New Haven and South Hero are in **Comcast's** footprint. Also notable, Comcast is using AI and DAA to [help detect and localize power outages](#) through its Global Outage Localization & Detection initiative. Caruso sees Gridmetrics as complementing that work.

Gridmetrics already partners with operators for its Power Event Notification System (PENS), which leverages existing broadband infrastructure to identify power grid disruptions. Last night, it showed virtually no power outages in Harris County, TX, and in less than 30 minutes it jumped to one million because of the powerful storms that hit the area. However, PENS allows a view of what the grid looks like every five minutes. But the Visibility Platform allows continuous, high-fidelity visibility. Why does it matter? "What we've learned is that up in the transmission world, this is exactly the kind of visibility they need [to synchronize power flows]. What we're introducing at scale is to provide this high fidelity, visibility in the distribution grid so that you can start to manage it in the same way we do the transmission world," said Caruso. "So instead of waiting for Bonneville Power Authority to say, 'Hey, we saw some disturbance that we have sourced down to the distribution grid in Phoenix,' we can send those alerts immediately and actually react to it before it starts causing disturbances up in the Northwest."

Power companies subscribe to the PENS service and Gridmetrics essentially has a revenue sharing model with the broadband operators that support it. Presumably, a similar arrangement would work for Visibility Platform partners. The platform box is something a broadband technician can place in a UPS in about 15 minutes.

In helping to solve a power supply pain point, broadband providers also can gain some operational benefits. In the same way the platform monitors the power coming into the power supply,

**Cablefax Daily**

**Partner  
with  
Cablefax  
Daily**

Contact Ellen Kamhi at  
917.626.5574 or  
ekamhi@accessintel.com

**Cablefax** is **THE** Place to Advertise.  
Send a targeted eblast.  
Advertise in our Daily newsletter.  
Promote your content to our audience.  
And MORE!

it also monitors the power leaving it. That would include shorts and whether the power supply is impacting a broadband node's reliability—especially important because if a node resets, that's minutes of network downtime. The Gridmetrics box even has a light sensor inside it that can detect if the power cabinet is opened up. That could alert to someone unauthorized messing with equipment or that a tech visit took place.

The device also has a heat sensor, smoke detector and accelerometer, the latter of which could pick up a utility pole leaning. "In many instances we think we could even pick up things like a pole down event or a shearing of a pedestal," Caruso said. "You now have smoke, heat, light at every one of these boxes. It's like a neighborhood fire detector."

Such real-time data is something that could be offered to federal, state and local agencies. It hits especially close to CableLabs, which was impacted by 2021's Marshall Fire . The blaze was caused by power lines damaged in a windstorm and destroyed 1,000 homes in the Boulder, CO, area. "Literally a hundred meters from where the ignition point where that fire was is one of our power supplies. If we'd had one of these boxes in, we could have identified a fire right away," said Caruso.

At IEEE, Caruso talked about the benefits of having a real-time signal that could be shared with EV charging manufacturers about when it would be best (or worst) to charge. But he said it could apply to other areas, such as data centers that are often designed around microgrids.

Gridmetrics is currently in deep discussions to expand its MSO partners and is interested in working with smaller providers, including **NCTC** members. "All of the broadband operators, and it's multiple that we're involved with, are deeply engaged in the pilots because they're just as eager to learn, not just what they get the benefit of operationally, but they also want to have an understanding of it," Caruso said. "If this has that big of an impact on utility grid operations, this could be a big deal for us as an industry as a future opportunity. In the broadband world, the opportunity to leverage a sunk cost to the benefit of not just improved operations, but also as a potential new revenue stream, that gets their attention."

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FOX NEWS MAKES DEBATE PITCH**

**Fox News** sent a letter to *Biden* and *Trump's* campaigns this afternoon requesting that it moderate a vice presidential debate at Virginia State University, which would be the first HBCU to host a presidential debate. The Commission on Presidential Debates had originally scheduled its second presidential debate for Oct 1 at VSU, but Biden and Trump have opted to skip the Commission debates and instead worked out arrangements directly with **CNN** and **ABC** for two debates. Fox News offered

to moderate the veep debate on July 23, Aug 13 or a date following the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Trump has accepted the invitation, according to the network.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**YOUTUBE TV MULTIVIEW EXTENDS TO ANDROID**

After [rolling out multiview](#) to iPhones and iPads in March, **YouTube TV** is bringing the popular feature to **Android** mobile and tablet devices. Users watching on those devices will be able to access up to four streams at once, though they're still ones curated by YouTube TV and not fully customizable. However, the option to choose the networks in multiview seems to be in the works. "While we're only sharing curated multiview streams from YouTube TV for now, we're working to improve flexibility & introduce more options in the future," TeamYouTube [posted](#) on X.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FCC ESTABLISHES SPECTRUM STEERING TEAM**

The **FCC** has put together a spectrum steering team dedicated to developing forward-looking spectrum policies. It will also guide the Commission's activity when it comes to the implementation of the National Spectrum Strategy, particularly its participation in the in-depth study of nearly 2,800 MHz of spectrum for repurposing across a number of bands. It will also be seeking input from stakeholders on how the Commission can best support overall National Spectrum Strategy implementation efforts. The team will be co-led by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Chief *Susan Mort* and Office of Engineering and Technology Deputy Chief *Ira Keltz*. OET Legal Advisor *Krista Witanowski* will serve as Chief of Staff. In addition to this team, FCC leadership and staff will continue to be a part of the Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE AFRICA CHANNEL UPFRONT**

It's not just the media giants showcasing their upfront plans this week. The Black-owned network **The Africa Channel** detailed plans to expand its cable and OTT platforms over the course of 2024-25. It'll start with an expansion of its FAST channel offerings. The first will come in the spring with **Afro-Cinema**, which will have an array of films, documentaries, series and cultural programming related to narratives from Africa and global African communities. More channels showcasing music, travel, cooking, home beauty and more will follow. The channels will be added to **Demand Africa** as well as popular FAST platforms in the coming months. Speaking of Demand Africa, a new AVOD

Cablefax Daily (ISSN 1069-6644) is published daily by Access Intelligence, LLC | www.cablefax.com | 301.354.2101 | Editorial Director: Amy Maclean, 301.354.1760, amaclean@accessintel.com | VP/Group Publisher, Cablefax and Cynopsis: Robbie Caploe, 917.974.0640, rcaploe@accessintel.com | Managing Editor: Sara Winegardner, 301.354.1701, swinegardner@accessintel.com | Associate Editor: Noah Ziegler, 301.354.1704, nziegler@accessintel.com | Director of Business Development, Cablefax: Ellen Kamhi, 917.626.5574, ekamhi@accessintel.com | Production Manager: Joann Fato, jfato@accessintel.com | Kerry Smith, Divisional President, Marketing & Media Group, ksmith@accessintel.com | Group Subs/Subscription Questions, Client Services: 301.354.2101, clientservices@accessintel.com | Annual subscription price: \$1,999.00/year | Access Intelligence, LLC, 9211 Corporate Blvd., 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850

tier will go live later this year. On the cable side, TAC is looking to expand partnerships like the one it has with **BLKFAM** that'll see a [BLKFAM-branded programming block](#) on cable (in addition to a hub on Demand Africa). TAC has already closed on multiple deals coming into the 2024-25 upfront season, including with TED Talks, Lightning International and Carol Bower Productions.

quarter came in at 605.8 GB, which is up from 560.5 GB from the same quarter prior year. Downstream consumption dropped 6% to 565.4 GB in the quarter—in line with historical patterns—but upstream usage increased slightly from 40.1 GB to 40.4 GB. Average downstream speed came in at 520 Mbps and average upstream speed was 28 Mbps. Additionally, over 1/3 of all subscribers were provisioned for gigabit speeds in 1Q24, a 20% increase YOY.

### OPENVAULT HIGHLIGHTS BROADBAND USAGE IN 1Q24

Though the sector of broadband consumers who use 5 TB or more per month is small, it's a growing portion that's leading to increased upstream usage in broadband cable networks, according to **OpenVault's** Broadband Insights report for 1Q24. Those consumers are classified as extreme power users, and it's a category that's experienced a 57% increase since 1Q23. Power users, or those who consume 2 TB or more per month, saw a 30% increase YOY. The monthly average data used by broadband subscribers for the

### PEOPLE


**AMC Networks** is promoting *Emily Gotto* to SVP, Acquisitions and Production for its horror, thrillers and supernatural-centric streamer **Shudder**. Gotto will oversee film acquisitions and production for Shudder Original films as well as co-productions. She'll continue to report to Scott Shoorman, Head of AMCN's Film Group, and will remain based in the U.K. Gotto's recent acquisitions and productions include "Late Night With the Devil," "When Evil Lurks" and "Oddity."

## CABLEFAX DASHBOARD

### Social Media Hits

**Alan Davidson**  
@DavidsonNTIA

If it can be built in America, it should be. I was delighted to join @SecRaimondo & @ReverendWarnock in GA to celebrate another #BuildAmericaBuyAmerica milestone. Thanks to the #InternetforAll program, OFS will create 100 jobs and expand its production of fiber to connect homes.



**Mike Seidel**  
@mikeseidel


After an incredible 32+ years at TWC, I'm embarking on a new journey due to company restructuring. I'm immensely grateful to all of you who've been part of this amazing ride! As hurricane season approaches, I can't wait to reconnect on another network. Stay tuned!



**Brandon Katz**  
@Great\_Katzby

Venu Sports  
Disney Bundle  
Disney+ /Hulu integration  
Disney+, Hulu, Max bundle  
ESPN OTT

What, exactly, is Disney's D2C strategy? I'm all for experimental learnings; I'm all for cross company cooperation. But we're 5 years in to the streaming pivot and still seeing what sticks 🤖

 **Up Ahead**

**MAY 17:** [WICT Network Rocky Mountain Chapter Walk of Fame](#); Denver

**MAY 23:** [FCC Open Commission Meeting](#); D.C.

**JUNE 4:** [Regional Fiber Connect](#); Deer Valley, Utah

**JUNE 13:** [Cablefax American Broadband Congress](#); D.C.

**JUNE 17-19:** [The Canadian Telecom Summit](#); Toronto