PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Welcome & Introduction: Drew Clark   *(9:15 a.m.)*

Keynote by Jase Wilson, Founder & CEO, Ready.net   *(9:30 a.m.)*

America's vulnerable critical infrastructure is under siege, and traditional approaches are failing us. Rising demand for energy, compute, and storage reflects a growing need to invest in AI at the edge. In an increasingly uncertain world, America must rethink infrastructure from the ground up.

In this timely keynote, Ready.net founder and CEO **Jase Wilson** will reveal the seven key principles for resilient critical infrastructure. America's position as the global leader in technology depends on infrastructure that can support the AI revolution and withstand threats ranging from natural disasters to tactical EMPs. This session will outline what it truly takes to stay strong in the face of disruption and build systems ready for whatever comes next.

Panel 1: Feeding the Global AI Network   *(10:00 a.m.)*

Artificial intelligence is the top technology priority of the Trump Administration. The U.S. seeks to maintain its competitive edge. The administration's AI Action Plan will require a significant boost in the number of American data centers, at a time when power is straining to support the existing boom. How are data centers central to the AI action plan? Equally important, how will AI training and AI inference impact critical (telecom and energy) networks? How can we boost the resilience of our nation's critical infrastructure?

> **Paul Brownell**, Head of Global Public Policy & Government Affairs, Equinix
>
> **Ed d'Agostino**, Vice President, DE-CIX North America
>
> **Carol Lane**, Vice President of Government Relations, X-energy
>
> **Rishi Iyengar (moderator)**, Global Technology Reporter, Foreign Policy

Break   *(11:00 a.m.)*

Fireside Chat on IXPs, Smart Infrastructure and Critical Infrastructure   *(11:15 a.m.)*

A session on expanding broadband access by strengthening communities, driving economic opportunity, and enhancing national resilience.

> **Brent Legg**, Executive Vice President, Connected Nation
>
> **Drew Clark** (moderator), CEO, Broadband Breakfast

Luncheon   *(12:00 p.m.)*

Panel 2: National Security and Connectivity   *(12:45 p.m.)*

Building network resilience in today's geopolitically volatile environment requires organizations and nations to develop comprehensive preparedness strategies that address both traditional threats like natural disasters and emerging challenges including cyberwarfare, electromagnetic pulse and other infrastructure vulnerabilities. Effective resilience must integrate robust backup systems for essential services, diversified supply chains, and layered security. How can our nation maintain a network of resilient critical infrastructure?

> **Ambassador Steve Lang**, U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy
>
> **Melissa Newman**, Vice President of Goverment Relations, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
>
> **Stephen Snyder**, Partner, Womble Dickinson Bond
>
> **Ed Mortimer**, Vice President of Government Affairs, NextNav
>
> **Ambassador David Gross (Ret.) (moderator)**, Partner, Wiley

KEYNOTE SPEECH

JASE WILSON
Founder& CEO,
Ready.net

Jase Wilson is the founder and CEO of Ready.net, a Public Benefit Corporation advancing resilient infrastructure for essential utility services. A serial entrepreneur at the intersection of technology and public service, Jase brings two decades of experience helping governments modernize critical systems. He studied at MIT, founded multiple civic-focused startups, and has remained passionate about building for a networked world.

PANEL 1: FEEDING THE GLOBAL AI NETWORK

PAUL BROWNELL
Head of Global Public Policy
& Government Affairs, Equinix

Paul Brownell is Head of Global Public Policy & Government Affairs at Equinix, Inc., the world's leading colocation data center and interconnection provider. In this role, he leads the government affairs team and designs and implements the company's global public policy strategies. Previously, he led public policy and government affairs in Europe for the open-source software company, Red Hat.

CAROL LANE
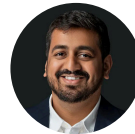*Vice President of Government Relations,*
X-Energy

Carol Lane is Vice President of Government Relations at X-energy, a company specializing in advanced nuclear reactor design and fuel manufacturing. In this role, she leads the company's strategic engagement with Congress and the executive branch, with a particular focus on the Department of Energy, NASA, and the Department of Defense, advancing X-energy's cutting-edge technologies and business initiatives.

ED D'AGOSTINO
Vice President,
DE-CIX North America

Ed d'Agostino serves as Vice President of DE-CIX North America, where he plays a central role in expanding the company's internet exchange and interconnection ecosystem across major U.S. markets. He has driven strategic infrastructure upgrades and market growth in key hubs such as Dallas, New York, Chicago, and Houston. Under his leadership, DE-CIX has enhanced regional network resilience and capacity to meet evolving bandwidth and latency demands.

RISHI IYENGAR
Global Technology Reporter,
Foreign Policy

Rishi Iyengar is the global technology reporter at Foreign Policy, covering the intersection of geopolitics and technology. Prior to joining FP, he spent six years at CNN Business as India editor in New Delhi and a technology writer in San Francisco, after two years reporting for Time magazine from Hong Kong.

FIRESIDE CHAT

BRENT LEGG
Executive Vice President,
Connected Nation

Brent Legg serves as Executive Vice President at nonprofit Connected Nation, where he leads the organization's joint venture to establish neutral Internet Exchange Point (IXP) facilities in unserved markets across the United States. Mr. Legg has more than 23 years of experience working at the intersection of technology, politics, and public policy.

DREW CLARK
CEO,
Broadband Breakfast

Breakfast Media LLC CEO Drew Clark has led the Broadband Breakfast community since 2008. An early proponent of better broadband, better lives, he founded the Broadband Census crowdsourcing tool to collect and verify broadband data left unpublished by the Federal Communications Commission. He ran a state broadband initiative, the Partnership for a Connected Illinois.

PANEL 2: NATIONAL SECURITY AND CONNECTIVITY

STEVE LANG
Former U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy

Ambassador **Steve Lang** is a seasoned U.S. diplomat with over 30 years of experience, recently serving as the U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy with the rank of Ambassador, a position he held until July 25, 2025. He previously held influential roles in global tech and communications policy, including Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Information and Communications Policy since November 2022, and postings in Tokyo, Mexico City, and other international assignments. In September 2025, he transitioned to the private sector as a senior advisor to Crest Hill Advisors.

STEPHEN SNYDER
*Partner,
Womble Dickinson Bond*

Stephen Snyder, Partner at Womble Dickinson Bond, represents energy clients in a broad range of transactions and regulatory, compliance, and litigation matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state regulatory commissions. He advises energy producers, utilities, cooperatives, developers, lenders, and pipeline companies on drafting and negotiating a wide range of power, transmission, pipeline, renewable, financing, and commodity agreements.

DAVID GROSS
*Partner,
Wiley*

Ambassador **David Gross**, a partner at Wiley, is widely recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on international telecommunications and Internet policies, having addressed the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and led more U.S. delegations to major international telecommunication conferences than anyone else in modern history. Noted as bringing "innovation and vision to the rapidly changing TMT industry" by Who's Who Legal and as one of the "Top 30 Telecommunications lawyers in the world" by Euromoney, David draws on more than 30 years of experience as a lawyer, global policymaker, and corporate executive.

MELISSA NEWMAN
Vice President of Goverment Relations, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

Melissa Newman has over 20 years of experience as a seasoned Executive in telecommunications companies with expertise in government affairs, public relations and legal. Recently, Melissa worked at Transit Wireless as Vice President of External Affairs and Senior Legal Counsel in New York City. Prior to this position, Melissa worked at Wilkinson Barker Knauer, a premier telecommunications law firm in Washington, DC. Melissa also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Policy Division in the Common Carrier Bureau of the FCC, and as Legal Counsel to the Common Carrier Bureau Chief.

ED MORTIMER
Vice President of Government Affairs, NextNav

Ed Mortimer serves as Vice President of Government Affairs at NextNav, where he leads engagement with government officials, agencies, and industry associations. As a principal advocate for developing terrestrial complement and backup systems to GPS, Ed educates policymakers—particularly on Capitol Hill—about the critical importance of resilient positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) technologies using 5G Broadband Spectrum. With over 30 years of experience, Ed has built a distinguished career at the intersection of public and private sectors, demonstrating expertise in government affairs within the technology and infrastructure domains.

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1Finity, a Fujitsu company, is a global provider of communications networks for our connected world. We uniquely combine technological leadership and expertise in open optical and wireless networking, network automation, and applied AI/ML to design, build, operate, and maintain critical digital communications network infrastructure.

INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade association advocating for competition policy, innovation, and economic development. INCOMPAS represents internet, competitive communications, infrastructure, energy, and technology companies both large and small. Our members are catalysts for creating economic growth and improving the quality of life of all Americans through technological innovation, new services, and greater choice for consumers and businesses.

The **Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)** - the trusted association for the connected world, represents more than 400 organizations that enable high-speed communication networks and accelerate next-generation technology innovation. As a member-driven organization, TIA advocates for our industry in the U.S. and internationally, develops critical standards, manages technology programs, and improves business performance, all to advance trusted global connectivity.

SPECIAL COVERAGE: DATELINE ASHBURN

Broadband Breakfast reports from the data center capital of the world, exploring the challenges and opportunities facing America's critical infrastructure.

How to Break the Internet

- *Ashburn's massive concentration of data centers makes it a top target for cyberattacks, physical breaches, and even everyday disasters.*
- *From hackers exploiting default logins to intruders walking in with a fake badge, the risks are as simple as they are severe.*
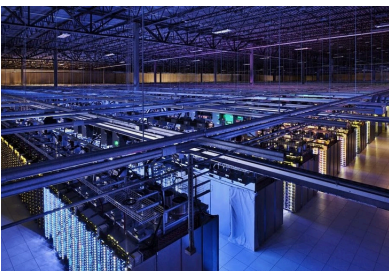
The Interplay Between IXPs and Data Centers

- *A quirky 1990s experiment in carrier-neutral interconnection snowballed into Data Center Alley, where today's AI surge is stress-testing the backbone of the internet.*
- *With thousands of networks peering in Ashburn while whole states lack a single IXP, the U.S. digital economy leans on a fragile center of gravity.*

Data Centers Drive New Energy Disputes in Northern VA

- *Data center demand could soar nearly fivefold by 2038, forcing $50+ billion in new transmission lines, substations, and generation.*
- *Residents face a proposed 14% rate hike in 2026, while lawmakers debate whether utilities should create a separate class so data centers cover more of the costs.*

The Thirst for AI Raises Alarms in Virginia

- *Loudoun's 199+ data centers consumed nearly 2 billion gallons of water in 2023 — equal to a city of up to 50,000 people — with demand accelerating alongside AI growth.*
- *Closed-loop and reclaimed systems help, but droughts and AI growth are pushing supplies to the limit.*

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- Videos of in-person events
- Take $100 discount off in-person events
- Onboarding session to Breakfast Club resources (every Friday at 10 a.m. ET)

NEW! The CHAT community is now OPEN for ALL!
A space for discussion and exclusive content. Scan the code below to learn more!

BROADBAND BREAKFAST LIVE ONLINE

In March 2020, Broadband Breakfast launched its Live Online series to address the impact of broadband on the coronavirus pandemic, including the digital divide, telemedicine, network capacity and more. The series has now become a weekly "must-attend" online resource addressing broadband's impact, deployment, use and equity through free, high-quality programming every Wednesday at 12 Noon ET.

UPCOMING EVENTS: BROADBANDBREAKFAST.COM/broadbandlive

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Broadband Breakfast is the leading media company advocating for higher-capacity internet everywhere through topical, timely and intelligent coverage at the intersection of technology and politics. Broadband Breakfast is the community for Better Broadband, Better Lives.

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