

August 17, 2016

**BY ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication in  
MB Docket No. 16-42 and CS Docket No. 97-80**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 15, 2016, representatives of Gracenote met with Commission staff to discuss the Commission's set-top box proceeding. Present on behalf of the Commission were Jessica Almond of the Chairman's Office; Scott Jordan, Chief Technology Officer; and John Williams of the Office of General Counsel. Present on behalf of Gracenote were Eddie Lazarus and Sal Karottki of Gracenote; and Michael Nilsson and Adrienne Fowler of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP.

At the meeting, we discussed Gracenote's comments in this proceeding. We also discussed Gracenote's June 20, 2016 *ex parte* letter, in which Gracenote described how third-party devices could "match" MVPD programming to the metadata and databases provided by Gracenote or its competitors by means other than the forced pass-through of Gracenote's proprietary IDs. As set forth in that letter, third-party box manufacturers would ideally obtain licenses from Gracenote (or other metadata providers).

Alternatively, third-party boxes could match MVPD programming as it becomes available with their own or commercially available metadata databases using the following information:

- For linear programming, (i) the program title, (ii) the start date/time, and (iii) the channel number.
- For VOD programming, (i) the program title and (ii) an authenticated link to a video asset on an MVPD's content delivery network (analogous to a URL linking to an online provider's catalog), which would essentially "link" to the VOD programming in question.

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Pursuant to the Commission's rules, I will file one copy of this letter in MB Docket No. 16-42 and another in CS Docket No. 97-80. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/  
Michael Nilsson  
*Counsel to Gracenote*

cc (by email):  
Jessica Almond  
Scott Jordan  
John Williams