

Not unlocking the box would diminish my well-being and that of others who depend on straightforward multichannel video programming distribution. We all get by just fine without any STBs, especially within the basic service tier.

TL; DR: Deny any STB lease / purchase mandate and keep it all open-standard. Why permit an MVPD to require a digital box (as is already happening in parts of my state) when Clear QAM already serves the need for must carry and retrans content? I say rescind Order 12-126's basic service tier encryption.

A pair of examples in support:

1. A condo complex resident, bound to subscribing to no less than basic cable service, with no easy access to OTA reception (thanks to metal roofs). Basic tier reception should remain unfettered, delivered in parallel with any new IP-based signals.
2. A retirement facility resident, where the user interface of an STB and additional remote will impact ease of use and incur additional labor and costs (especially to family members!) for setup and maintenance. It's another "If it ain't broke" situation. . . .

In both cases, please consider:

- Number one, EAS. Since the result can mean life or death, can we count on it deploying as reliably through these extra "layers" of navigation? Who maintains QoS measurement and reporting, to maintain MVPD compliance? Is there ATSC / Clear QAM fallback?
- If you require service discovery, how would you enforce that when cable providers already ignore most PSIP? (It's 2016 yet I'm lucky to get correct Station ID, and seldom if ever see Program Title, Details or Rating. So much for trusting robustness and compliance. . . .)
- Again, content protection on OTA feeds is a hindrance when using a spare receiver, say, just to get the weather in the morning. Don't risk obsoleting perfectly good, unaffiliated ATSC / Clear QAM tuners, especially for the basic tier. (Cloud-based access is another story, and if you're seeking comment on that, it's outside the scope of these points.)
- What happens to privacy when the signal does go IP, through an MVPD-specific device? Opting out of any data collection should always be an option, but keeping the system open and fiercely competitive would be preferred.
- Speaking of open, require that any navigation devices and/or software be possible via solely open source solutions, even if proprietary ones are available. Let the open standards bodies do what they do best.
- How free are we when it becomes impossible to view public programming, emergency broadcasts or even presidential addresses on anything but an encrypted, proprietary system? As noted in the condo scenario, subscribing to an MVPD is not always voluntary and there should be no impediments to accessing OTA and non-commercial communications (it's in your name, after all).
- Finally, STBs aren't always efficient, and I'm not interested in subsidizing even one Watt of unnecessary consumption, thanks.