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February 4, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: International Comparison and Consumer Survey Requirements in the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 09-47; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to all Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 09-137; Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices, GN Docket No. 97-80**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 3, 2010, David Young, Will Johnson and I met with Bill Lake, Chief of the Media Bureau, Phil Bellaria, Director of Scenario Planning, Omnibus Broadband Initiative, and the following FCC staff members: Kris Monteith, Nancy Murphy, Alison Neplokh, Brendan Murray, Jeffrey Neumann, Mary Beth Murphy, Steven Broeckert to discuss Verizon's innovations in video devices and home networking.

Specifically, as illustrated in the attachment, we described possibilities for providing access to FiOS TV (or any other MVPD's) programming to any networked consumer electronics device in the home, likely through the use of an IP media gateway or similar device that can communicate with, and deliver, a providers' service to other networked devices. Standards-setting work that is currently well underway promises to enable consumers to use their existing devices – such as game consoles and networked blu-ray players - instead of leased set-top boxes to access providers' video services, and many more such devices will continue to come to market in the near future. In response to consumer demand and in order to offer innovative products that more effectively compete in the video marketplace, Verizon and some other video providers are already experimenting with these capabilities, and more will undoubtedly do so shortly. These developments – which are occurring without the presence of any new technological mandate – promise to finally achieve the objectives of Section 629 and will lead to increased competition and innovation throughout the video marketplace (including video provided over the Internet). New technology mandates, however, could freeze these developments in their tracks and distort the pro-

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consumer innovation that is already well underway. We also discussed the trend toward convergence of the Internet and the television and described Verizon's success in this area with the provision of widgets, an on-screen tool that allows customers to access information derived from the Internet without interrupting their viewing of video programming.

Given the progress that is being made in video device innovation, we urged the FCC to avoid adopting new rules that would require the provision of specific devices or any technological standards, particularly in light of the fact that previous attempts to require specific technological features in video devices have met with little practical success. Moreover, consumers would benefit if the Commission were to remove the current technology mandates – including the requirement to include a 1394 output in all set-top boxes and the set-top box integration ban – which add costs and inefficiencies with few if any offsetting benefits to consumers. As the Commission considers alternative ways to increase competition and innovation in this marketplace, we encouraged the Commission to work with the industry and other stakeholders to foster the evolution in the video marketplace that is already taking place.

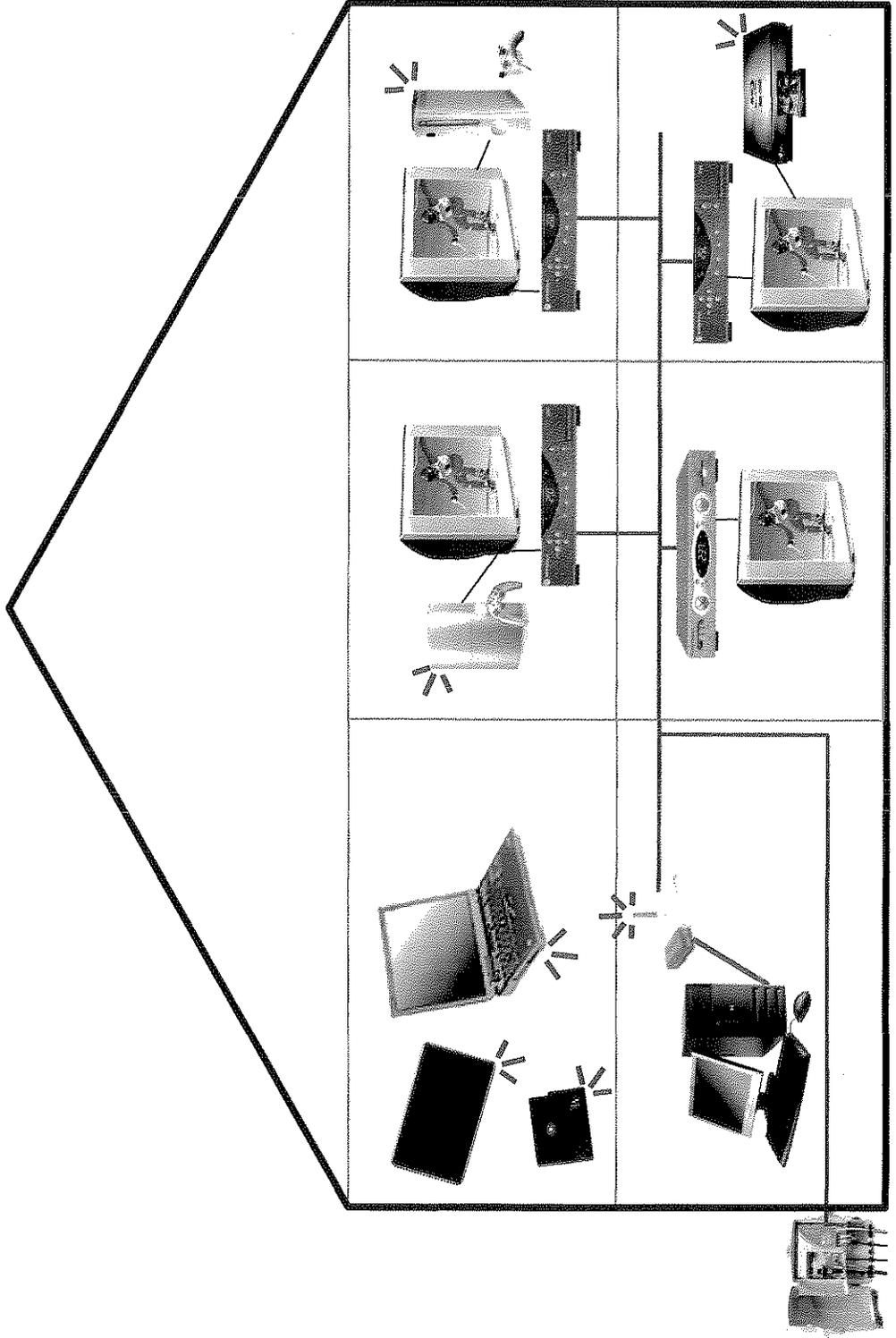
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

cc: Bill Lake  
Phil Bellaria

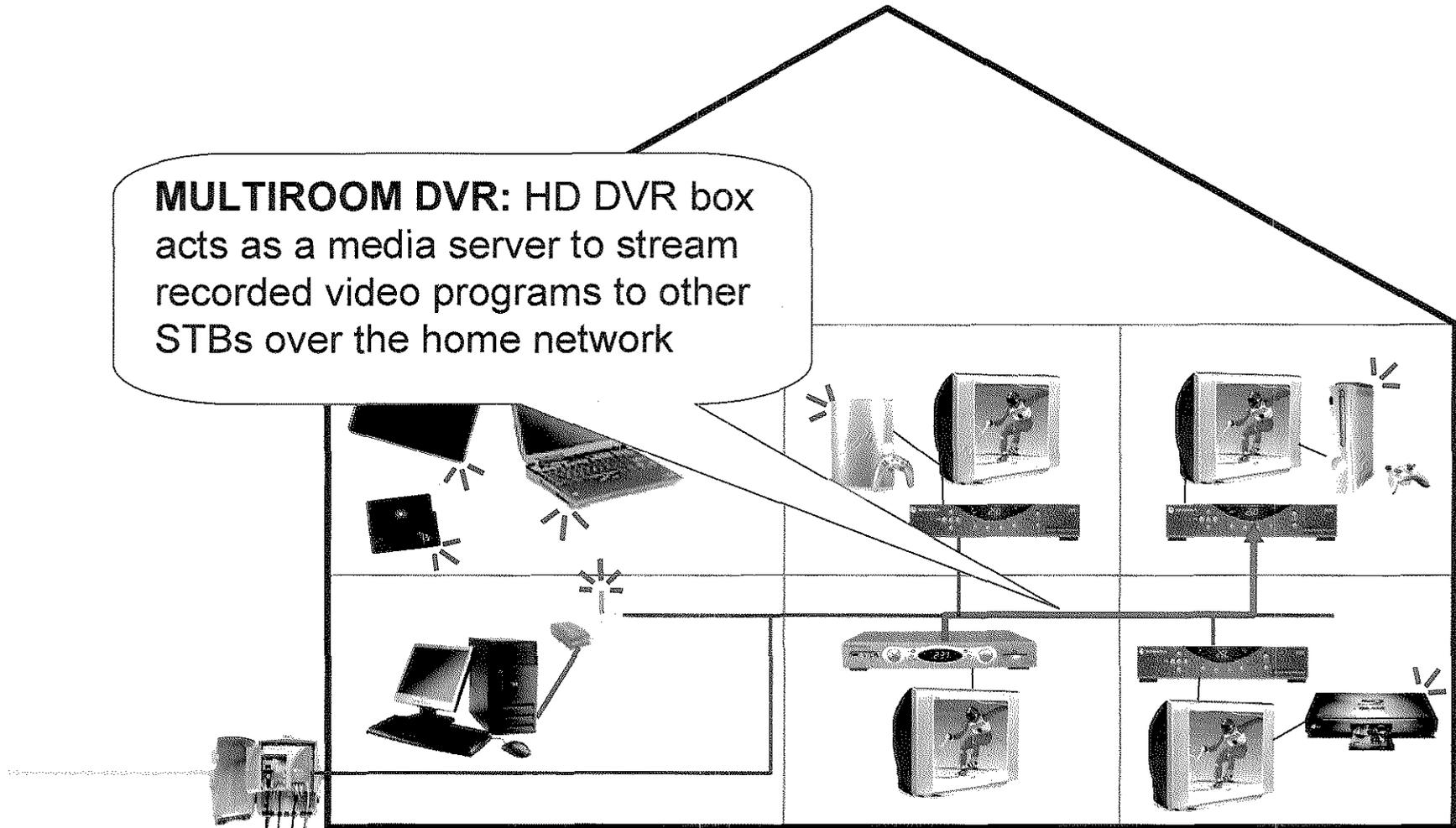
Attachment

# Typical FiOS TV Home Today



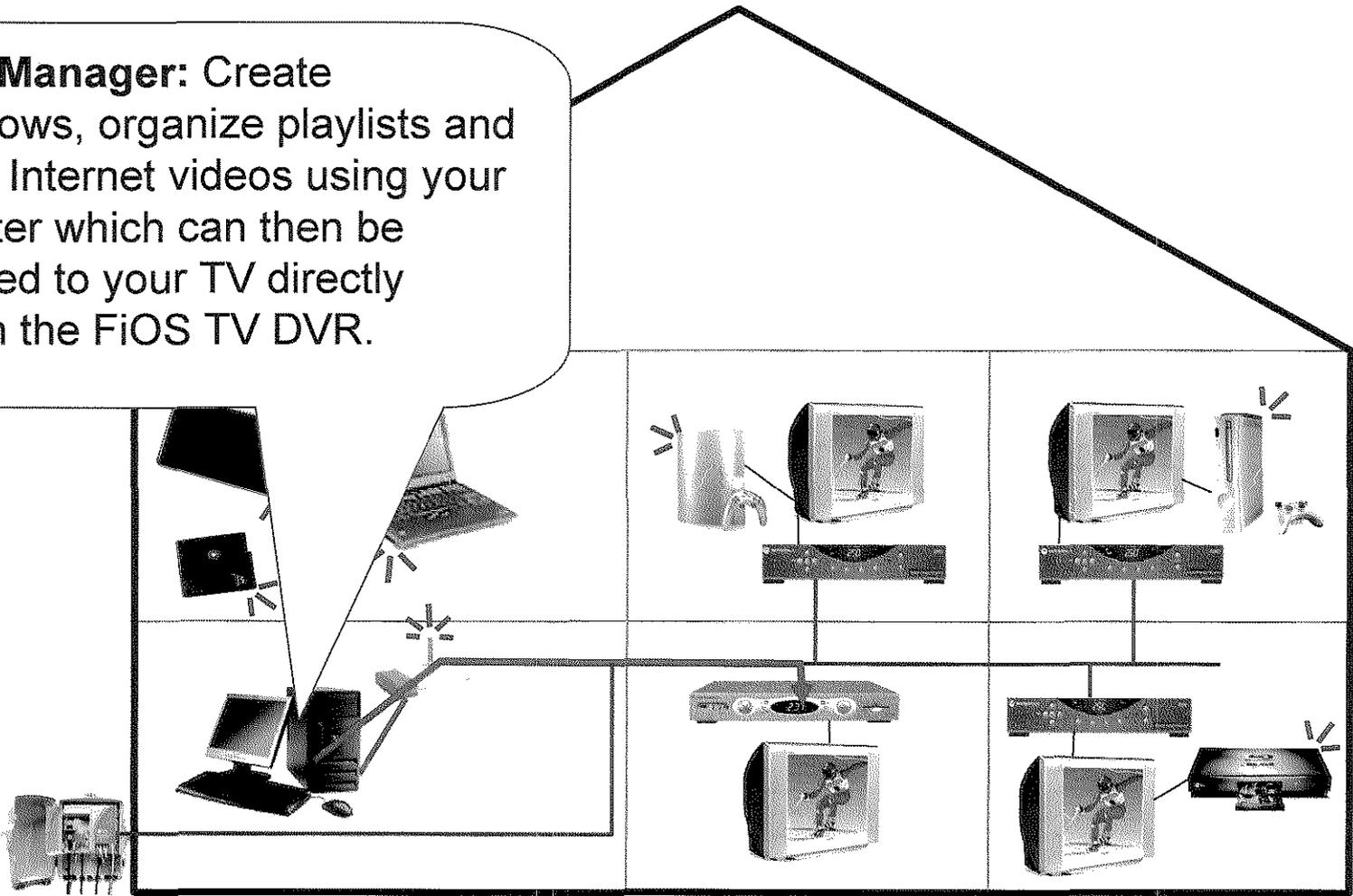
# Typical FiOS TV Home Today

**MULTIROOM DVR:** HD DVR box acts as a media server to stream recorded video programs to other STBs over the home network



# Typical FiOS TV Home Today

**Media Manager:** Create slideshows, organize playlists and access Internet videos using your computer which can then be streamed to your TV directly through the FiOS TV DVR.



# Typical FiOS TV Home Today

**Widgets:** Blending Internet and TV, a Widget is an on-screen tool that lets you view personalized information without interrupting the show you're watching.



#### NFL RedZone

See football scores in real-time and receive interactive alerts on your TV when a team enters the Red Zone.

See it in Action



#### WeatherBug

Check out advanced forecasts with 7-day outlook, hour-by-hour and radar.

See it in Action



#### Facebook

Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

See it in Action



#### Fantasy Football

Track your ESPN fantasy football team with real-time player stats.



#### Twitter

Read the latest tweets on your favorite shows without having to register for a Twitter account.

See it in Action



#### Sudoku

Sudoku is a logic-based number puzzle with solutions ranging from easy to very complex.



#### HSN

View currently aired products, make purchases, and view deals of the day through this amazing widget!

See it in Action



#### NBA League Pass

See basketball scores in real-time and receive interactive alerts on your TV when your favorite teams start a game, complete a game, and much more!



#### WeatherBug

Check out advanced forecasts with 7-day outlook, hour-by-hour and radar.

See it in Action



#### Kodak Gallery

Share Kodak Gallery photo albums on your TV with family and friends.

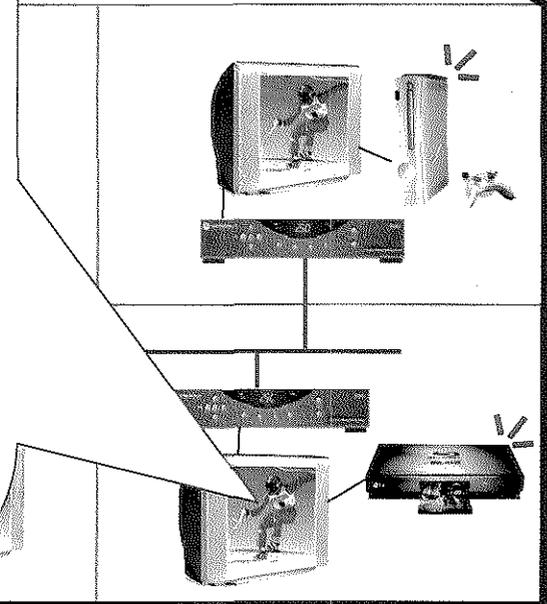
See it in Action



#### NYC 311

Get live streetcam views throughout the five boroughs of NYC.

See it in Action



# Widget Developers

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Verizon Developer Community website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www22.verizon.com/fiosdeveloper/General/FiosDevCenterExt.aspx>. The website header features the Verizon logo and the text "Verizon Developer Community - FIOS TV Development Center". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Resources", "News", and "FAQ".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large image of a television displaying a user interface. To the right of the image, the text reads: "FIOS TV An open platform for interactive television. FIOS TV enables next-generation interactive content and applications." Below this, a "COMING SOON" banner is visible. At the bottom of this section, it says "FIOS TV SDK Build and test your widgets using the FIOS TV Widgets SDK".

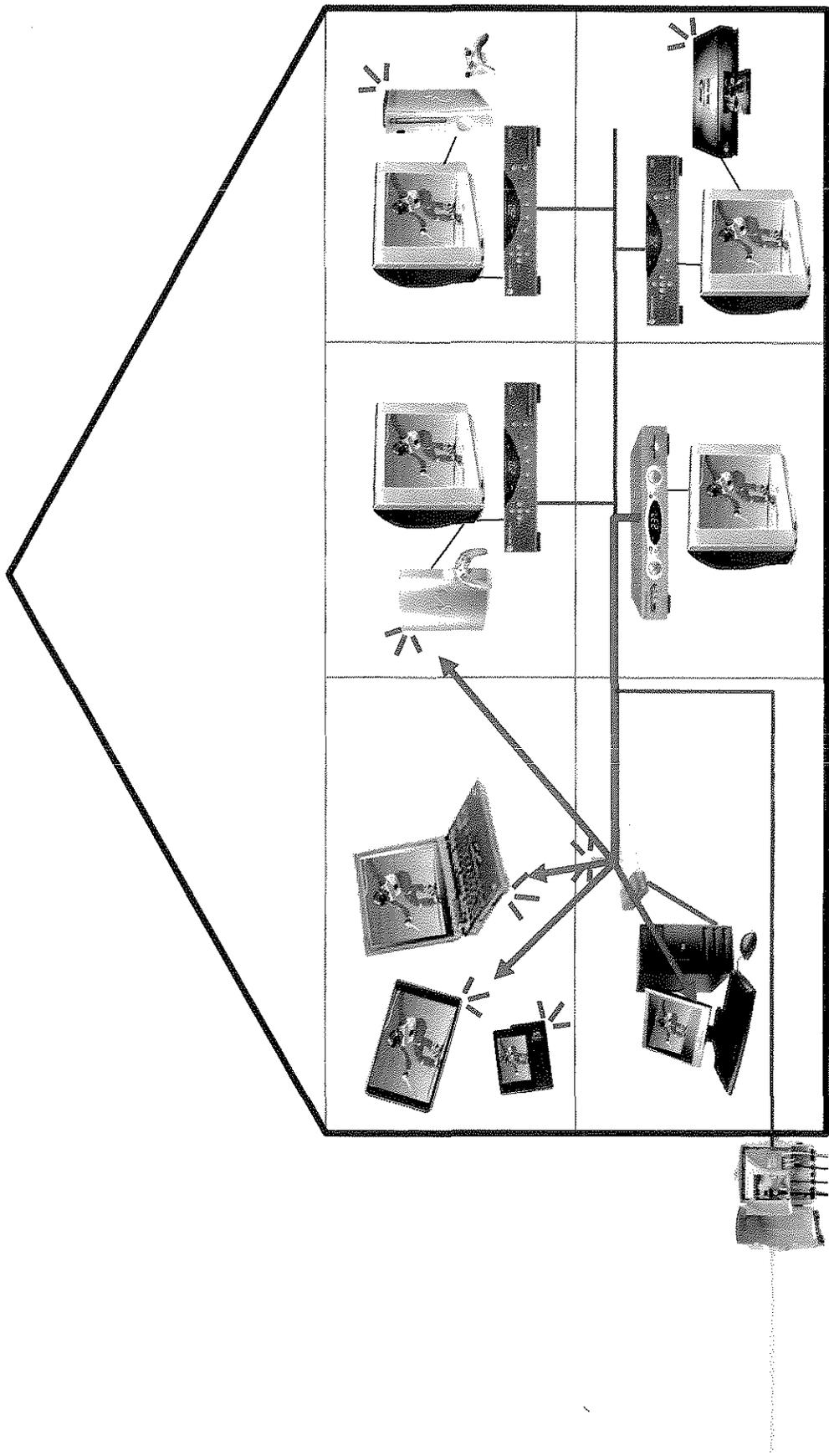
The right column is titled "FIOS TV Widgets" and contains a "SIGN UP" button. Below the button, it says "Watch how-to videos on creating widgets for FIOS TV".

At the bottom of the page, there are two sections: "FIOS TV Widget Bazaar" and "Latest News". The "FIOS TV Widget Bazaar" section includes a small "W" logo and text describing widgets as small, internet-enabled applications that run on a FIOS TV Set-Top Box. The "Latest News" section includes a small "W" logo and text about subscribing to FIOS TV Development News.

At the very bottom of the page, there is a social media bar with a "Facebook" link and a "My Name" field.

# Evolving Home Network Architecture

## Enabling Networked CE Devices



# Evolving Home Network Architecture

Networked CE Devices Replace Traditional STBs

