Description of Baseline Expectations of DSTAC Report

Statutory Directive: Identify, report, and recommend performance objectives, technical capabilities, and technical standards of a not unduly burdensome, uniform, and technology- and platform-neutral software-based downloadable security system designed to promote the competitive availability of navigation devices in furtherance of section 629 of the Communications Act of 1934.

**Step 1: Identify technical capabilities in terms of black box outputs and interfaces.**

The advisory committee shall identify the features that a retail product may use to access linear and on-demand video programming and related services offered by MVPDs. In this exercise, note that the “black box” need not (and indeed probably will not) be a physical box in most circumstances – the features may be provided from the cloud, inside a system-on-a-chip embedded in the retail product, or provided solely as a software module.

The committee shall develop a maximally flexible approach and, accordingly, the outputs shall be designed to allow third-party user interfaces and in-home (rather than or in addition to cloud- or service-based) recording, even if participants believe that those features should not be mandatory. The Commission will consider all policy issues—e.g., whether those types of features are necessary to further Section 629—separately from this advisory committee’s directive to develop a software-based security system.

The committee discussed a partial list of outputs at the initial meeting, including:

* Audio
* Video
* Service advertisement/discovery/tuning information
* Identification of services available for purchase
* Emergency Alert System
* Closed Captioning
* Parental controls
* Guide data for on-demand content
* Remote user interface

The committee also discussed partial list of interfaces at the initial meeting, including:

* Content request
* Authentication of device
* Authentication of subscriber
* Status of security
* Provisioning

Based upon output of the business and technical requirements working groups, these lists may be augmented or modified.

**Step 2: Recommend performance objectives and technical standards to provide the outputs and interfaces identified in step 1.**

To the extent possible, reliance on existing standards and processes to provide these outputs and interfaces is desirable. Where new standards development is necessary, the DSTAC should identify a process for developing such standards.

**Step 3: Identify other steps and processes necessary to promote competitive availability of navigation devices.**

Possible additional steps include:

* Recommend an IP licensing process for technologies developed in furtherance of step 2.
* Recommend an appropriate venue to establish compliance and robustness rules for security.
* Recommend an appropriate body for certification/qualification of products and administration of certificates.