

C&W–Columbus Acquisition: Quantifying the Consequences for Caribbean Competition

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Why I'll focus on undersea fiber

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Small changes in fiber capacity prices cause huge changes in retail prices.

You can't fix anything else until the fiber market is fixed, and once you fix the fiber market, the rest comes relatively easily.



Caveat

PCH is a global organization, rather than a Caribbean organization, so there are people in this room who know far more about the state of Caribbean cable systems than we ever will. The information that follows is the best we've been able to find and confirm from multiple public sources. If you can help us to refine our understanding of the data it will help us refine our model of the Caribbean network, and that in turn will improve the quality of the insights that can be obtained from the model. We actively solicit your help to correct, refine, and expand the data we're basing the model on.



Cable Ownership Pre-Acquisition

Iwo or moi	s 16	
Cable System	Caribbean Countries	Owners
ARCOS	5	19
Pan-Am	2	15
Americas-II	4	15
MAYA-1	1	11
ECFS	11	10
Antillas-1	2	7
Taino-Carib	1	7
PCCS	3	5
Bahamas-2	1	3
ALBA-1	2	2
GCN	11	2
BDSNi	2	2
SGSCS	1	2
East-West	3	2
CBUS	2	2
Gemini-Bermuda	1	2

Monopoly 13					
Cable System	Caribbean Countries	Owners			
CJFS	2	Columbus			
CFX-1	1	Columbus			
Fibralink	3	Columbus			
EC-Link	2	Columbus			
Alonso de Ojeda-II	2	Telefonica			
SAm-1	1	Telefonica			
GlobeNet	1	BTG Pactual			
AMX-1	2	América Móvil			
Amerigo Vespucci	2	Antelecom			
BICS	1	C. Crossings			
Challenger	1	KeyTech			
SMPR-1	2	TelEm			
Alonso de Ojeda	2	SETAR			



The

Cable Ownership Post-Acquisition

IV	rs 13		
Cable Sy	ystem	Caribbean Countries	Owners
ARCOS		5	C&W+18
Pan-Am		2	C&W+13
Americas	s-II	4	C&W+13
MAYA-1		1	C&W+10
ECFS		11	C&W+8
Antillas-1		2	C&W+6
Taino-Ca	ırib	1	C&W+5
PCCS		3	C&W+4
Bahamas	s-2	1	3
ALBA-1		2	2
GCN		11	2
BDSNi		2	2
SGSCS		1	2

Monopoly 16					
Cable System	Caribbean Countries	Owners			
CJFS	2	C&W			
CFX-1	1	C&W			
Fibralink	3	C&W			
EC-Link	2	C&W			
East-West	3	C&W			
CBUS	2	C&W			
Gemini-Bermuda	1	C&W			
Alonso de Ojeda-II	2	Telefonica			
SAm-1	1	Telefonica			
GlobeNet	1	BTG Pactual			
AMX-1	2	América Móvil			
Amerigo Vespucci	2	Antelecom			
BICS	1	C. Crossings			
Challenger	1	KeyTech			
SMPR-1	2	TelEm			
Alonso de Ojeda	2	SETAR			



Connectivity is disproportionately dependent upon a central subset of cables,





Connectivity is disproportionately dependent upon a central subset of cables, and those cables are disproportionately involved in the acquisition.







Cable & Wireless claims that it will be smaller than Digicel, and therefore its acquisition does not threaten competition.



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Digicel's sole fiber holdings are a majority interest in the GCN system in the eastern Caribbean, which does not reach the mainland. By comparison, C&W and Columbus own most of the Caribbean cable systems, either in part or as outright monopolies.

C&W is far larger than Digicel in undersea cable systems, upon which all of the other businesses are based and wholly dependent, as well as cable TV, residential, and commercial broadband.

Digicel or any other competitor in the retail space will be gated by C&W's dominance over backhaul.



Brendan Paddick described competing with C&W in 2007:

"We're only interested in building retail operations where we can control our own off-island connectivity and not be held captive. When we've been reliant on purchasing bandwidth from a competitor, it's put us in a tough position. Costs may be kept too high, and we're not the highest on the priority list in case of a system problem. The agility and nimbleness of having our own off-island network is an advantage. We will only enter a market if we can secure our own off-island bandwidth"

Source: April 2007 interview with Caribbean Telecoms Analyst



Country Details



Anguilla

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners

Anguilla is currently served only by the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus. ECFS does not reach any intercontinental cable landings, so connectivity from Anguilla outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II (14 owners, including both C&W and Columbus).

Impact: Reduced competition, probably minor, but we need ownership share information to quantify the effect.



Antigua & Barbuda

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Antigua & Barbuda is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Aruba

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
Alonso de Ojeda	1			Telefonica
Alonso de Ojeda-II	1			Telefollica
Pan-Am	8 (US)	<u> </u>	Columbus	13 Other Owners
PCCS	6 (US)	C&W	Columbus	4 Other Owners

Aruba is currently served by four cable systems, two of which are Telefonicaowned cables to Curaçao, and two of which, GCN and PCCS, are major consortium-owned cables that reach intercontinental cable landings in the US. C&W is an owner in both consortium cables, and Columbus in Pan-Am.

Impact: Some impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information. No impact on connections to Curaçao.



Bahamas

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ARCOS	14 (US)		Columbus	18 Other Owners
BDSNi	1	C&W		1 Other Owner
Bahamas-2	1 (US)			3 Owners
BICS	1 (US)			Caribbean Crossings

The Bahamas are currently served by four cable systems, two of which, BICS and Bahamas-2, go directly to intercontinental cable landings in the US. Bahamas Domestic Submarine Network (BDSNi) goes directly to Haiti, and ARCOS is a major consortium cable that reaches fourteen other countries including the US.

Impact: Little or no impact on out-of-region connectivity. Reduced competition in Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information. No impact on connections to Haiti.



Barbados

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Barbados is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Bermuda

Cable System	Countries			
CBUS	1	<u> </u>	Columbus	
Gemini Bermuda	1 (US)	C&W	Columbus	
GlobeNet	4 (US & BR)			BTG Pactual
Bermuda-US	1 (US)			
CB-1	1 (US)			Cable Co.

Bermuda is currently served by five cable systems, three of which, Gemini, Bermuda-US, and CB-1, go directly to intercontinental cable landings in the US. GlobeNet reaches intercontinental cables in both the US and Brazil. The fifth, CBUS, goes directly to BVI.

Impact: After merger, all five of Bermuda's cables will be monopoly-held, by only three companies in total: two of them by C&W, and two by BTG Pactual.



British Virgin Islands

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
PCCS	6 (US)			4 Other Owners
East-West	2	C&W	Columbus	
CBUS	1			

BVI is currently served by three cable systems, and both C&W and Columbus have shares in all three. One, PCCS, also has four other owners, and reaches intercontinental cable landings in the US.

Impact: Major reduction in competition on both regional and intercontinental paths.



Cayman Islands

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
Maya-1	6 (US)	C 2 M	Columbus	10 Other Owners
CJFS	1	C&W	Columbus	

The Cayman Islands are currently served by two cable systems: Maya-1 reaches intercontinental cable landings in the US and has eleven owners. Cayman-Jamaica Fiber System (CJFS) is a C&W monopoly cable to Jamaica.

Impact: Reduced competition in intercontinental connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information. The Caymans' only Caribbean connectivity is to Jamaica, which remains a monopoly.





Cable System	Countries	Ownership	
ALBA-1	2		2 Owners

Cuba is currently served by one cable, ALBA-1, which reaches Venezuela and Jamaica, and is owned by Transbit and Telecom Venezuela.

Impact: No change in regional connectivity, since Cuba is only connected to Jamaica, and the ALBA-1 cable doesn't change ownership, but the intercontinental connectivity is dependent upon Jamaica and Venezuela, and Jamaica is hit very hard by this merger.



Curaçao

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ARCOS	14 (US)			18 Other Owners
Americas-II	7 (US & BR)	C&W	Columbus	13 Other Owners
ECLink	1			
Alonso de Ojeda	1			Tolofonico
Alonso de Ojeda-II	1			Telefonica
Amerigo Vespucci	1			Antelecom

Curaçao is currently served by six cable systems, two of which are major consortium cables reaching the US and Brazil, with C&W and Columbus partial ownership, and four of which are smaller monopoly cables to individual countries.

Impact: Reduced competition in both intercontinental and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information. No impact on connections to Aruba.



Dominica

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Dominica is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Dominican Republic

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ARCOS	14 (US)			18 Other Owners
Antillas 1	1		Columbus	6 Other Owners
Fibralink	2		Columbus	
East-West	2	C&W		
AMX-1	6 (US & BR)			América Móvil

The Dominican Republic is currently served by five cable systems, two of which, ARCOS and AMX-1, reach intercontinental cable landings in the US, and one of those is an América Móvil monopoly cable.

Impact: After merger, two of DR's five cables will be partly C&W owned, and two will be C&W monopoly-held, while the fifth will remain an América Móvil monopoly.



Grenada

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Grenada is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Guadeloupe

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Guadeloupe is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Haiti

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
Fibralink	2		Columbus	
BDSNi	1	C&W		1 Other Owner

Haiti is currently served by two cable systems: Fibralink, a Columbus monopoly cable that connects it to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and BDSNi, a two-owner cable that connects it to the Bahamas.

Impact: Haiti is not connected to any cables that reach intercontinental landing points directly, and within the Caribbean, it's only connected to DR, Jamaica, and the Bahamas, so its intercontinental connectivity is dependent upon two-hop connections through those three countries. Jamaica and DR will both be hard-hit by the merger, which means that Haiti's only remaining competitive path to the rest of the world will be through the Bahamas.



Jamaica

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
CFX-1	2 (US)			
Fibralink	2		Columbuo	
East-West	2	00144	Columbus	
CJFS	1	C&W		
ALBA-1	2			2 Owners

Jamaica is currently served by five cables, one of which, a Columbus monopoly cable, reaches intercontinental cable landings in the US directly.

Impact: Jamaica is the hardest-hit of any country. Four of Jamaica's five cables will now be under C&W monopoly control, including the one that reaches intercontinental cables in Miami. The fifth cable only reaches Cuba and Venezuela.



Martinique

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
Americas-II	7 (US & BR)	<u> </u>	Columbuo	13 Other Owners
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

Martinique is currently served by three cable systems, and both C&W and Columbus have shares in two of them. Two of the systems reach intercontinental cable landings in the US.

Impact: Minor reduction in competition on both regional and intercontinental paths, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Montserrat

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners

Montserrat is currently served only by the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus. ECFS does not reach any intercontinental cable landings, so connectivity from Montserrat outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II (14 owners, including both C&W and Columbus).

Impact: Reduced competition, probably minor, but we need ownership share information to quantify the effect.



Puerto Rico

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ARCOS	14 (US)			18 Other Owners
Americas-II	7 (US & BR)			13 Other Owners
PCCS	6 (US)	C&W	Columbus	4 Other Owners
Taino-Carib	1 (US)			5 Other Owners
Antillas 1	1			6 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners
SAm-1	8 (US & BR)			Telefonica
AMX-1	6 (US & BR)			América Móvil
SMPR-1	1			TelEm

Puerto Rico is served by nine cable systems, five of which are consortium, seven reach intercontinental landings in the US, and three in Brazil.

Impact: Although C&W will have stakes in five of the cables, there will likely be little significant reduction in competition.



St. Kitts & Nevis

Cable System	Countries			
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

St. Kitts & Nevis are currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



St. Lucia

Cable System	Countries			
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

St. Lucia is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Cable System	Countries			
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
GCN	11			2 Owners

St. Vincent and the Grenadines are currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and the Global Caribbean Network (GCN), which has two owners, Leucadia National Corporation and Digicel. Connectivity outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with Americas-II or GCN with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the US.

Impact: Minor impact on out-of-region and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



St. Maarten

Cable System	Countries			
ECFS	12	C&W	Columbus	8 Other Owners
SMPR-1	1			TelEm

St. Maarten is currently served by two cable systems: the Eastern Caribbean Fiber System (ECFS), which has ten owners, including both C&W and Columbus, and SMPR-1, which goes solely to Puerto Rico. Neither of these reach any intercontinental cable landings, so connectivity from Sint Maarten outside the Caribbean is achieved by pairing ECFS with any of six cable systems that connect Puerto Rico to the United States.

Impact: Very minor reduction in competition both within the Caribbean and intercontinentally.



Trinidad & Tobago

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
ECFS	12	C&W		8 Other Owners
Americas-II	7 (US & BR)	Οανν	Columbus	13 Other Owners
ECLink	1			
GCN	11			2 Owners
SG-SCS	2			2 Owners

Trinidad & Tobago is served by five cable systems, two of which are major consortium cables, both with C&W and Columbus partial ownership, two reaching the US, and one reaching Brazil.

Impact: Minor reduction in competition in both intercontinental and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information. No impact on connections to Suriname or Guyana.



Turks & Caicos

Cable System	Countries	Ownership	
ARCOS	14 (US)	Columbus	18 Other Owners

Turks & Caicos are served by only one cable system, but it's a major consortium cable that reaches intercontinental landings in the US. It does not have significant connectivity to other Caribbean nations, however.

Impact: Minor reduction in competition in both intercontinental and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



US Virgin Islands

Cable System	Countries		Ownership	
Pan-Am	8 (US)	C&W	Columbus	13 Other Owners

The U.S. Virgin Islands are served by only one cable system, but it's a major consortium cable that reaches intercontinental landings in the US. Within the Caribbean, however, it connects only to Aruba.

Impact: Minor reduction in competition in both intercontinental and Caribbean regional connectivity, impossible to quantify without ownership share information.



Degraded Competition Summary

Country	Intercontinental Impact Regional Impact	
Anguilla	Minor	Minor
Antigua & Barbuda	Minor	Minor
Aruba	Minor	Minor
Bahamas	None	Minor
Barbados	Minor	Minor
Bermuda	Major	Major
British Virgin Islands	Major	Major
Cayman Islands	Moderate	None
Cuba	Major	None
Curaçao	Minor	Minor
Dominica	Minor	Minor
Dominican Republic	Moderate	Major
Grenada	Minor	Minor



Degraded Competition Summary

Country	Intercontinental Impact	Regional Impact
Guadeloupe	Minor	Minor
Haiti	Moderate	Moderate
Jamaica	Critical	Critical
Martinique	Minor	Minor
Montserrat	Minor	Minor
Puerto Rico	Minor	Minor
St. Kitts & Nevis	Minor	Minor
St. Lucia	Minor	Minor
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Minor	Minor
Sint Maarten	Minor	Minor
Trinidad & Tobago	Minor	Minor
Turks & Caicos	Minor	Minor
US Virgin Islands	Minor	Minor



Goal: Gain a Caribbean regional overview by normalizing to per-person and per-dollar effect across all the Caribbean islands, while still identifying the effect on a per-island basis.



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Very simple analysis:



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Very simple analysis:

Grade degradation of competition 0 through 4



Goal: Gain a Caribbean regional overview by normalizing to per-person and per-dollar effect across all the Caribbean islands, while still identifying the effect on a per-island basis. Where will the largest number of people be at risk, and which economies stand to lose the most in absolute terms?

Very simple analysis:

Grade degradation of competition 0 through 4 Weight intercontinental and regional effect equally



Goal: Gain a Caribbean regional overview by normalizing to per-person and per-dollar effect across all the Caribbean islands, while still identifying the effect on a per-island basis. Where will the largest number of people be at risk, and which economies stand to lose the most in absolute terms?

Very simple analysis:

Grade degradation of competition 0 through 4 Weight intercontinental and regional effect equally Multiply by population and GDP



Goal: Gain a Caribbean regional overview by normalizing to per-person and per-dollar effect across all the Caribbean islands, while still identifying the effect on a per-island basis. Where will the largest number of people be at risk, and which economies stand to lose the most in absolute terms?

Very simple analysis:

Grade degradation of competition 0 through 4 Weight intercontinental and regional effect equally Multiply by population and GDP Normalize to 100 in each category



Country	Intercont	Regional	Population	Economy
Anguilla	Minor	Minor	0	0
Antigua & Barbuda	Minor	Minor	0	0
Aruba	Minor	Minor	0	1
Bahamas	None	Minor	1	2
Barbados	Minor	Minor	1	1
Bermuda	Major	Major	1	7
British Virgin Islands	Major	Major	0	1
Cayman Islands	Moderate	None	0	0
Cuba	Major	None	65	4
Curaçao	Minor	Minor	1	1
Dominica	Minor	Minor	0	0
Dominican Republic	Moderate	Major	100	100
Grenada	Minor	Minor	0	0



Country	Intercont	Regional	Population	Economy
Guadeloupe	Minor	Minor	1	2
Haiti	Moderate	Moderate	42	5
Jamaica	Critical	Critical	42	42
Martinique	Minor	Minor	1	4
Montserrat	Minor	Minor	0	0
Puerto Rico	Minor	Minor	14	44
St. Kitts & Nevis	Minor	Minor	0	0
St. Lucia	Minor	Minor	0	0
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Minor	Minor	0	0
Sint Maarten	Minor	Minor	0	1
Trinidad & Tobago	Minor	Minor	5	12
Turks & Caicos	Minor	Minor	0	0
US Virgin Islands	Minor	Minor	0	1



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems





Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity Pricing



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity Pricing

Analysis:



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity Pricing

Analysis:

How great is the ownership concentration on critical cables?



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity Pricing

Analysis:

How great is the ownership concentration on critical cables? How much competition remains on unsold capacity?



Data:

Ownership shares of cable systems Available remaining capacity Pricing

Analysis:

How great is the ownership concentration on critical cables? How much competition remains on unsold capacity? Where should new cables be built to most improve competition at the lowest cost?



Regulatory Goals:

Protect the interests of the public; telecom consumers



Regulatory Goals:

Protect the interests of the public; telecom consumers Regulatory harmonization and cooperation across the region



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Protect the interests of the public; telecom consumers Regulatory harmonization and cooperation across the region Transaction transparency for market-dominant operators



Regulatory Goals:

Protect the interests of the public; telecom consumers Regulatory harmonization and cooperation across the region Transaction transparency for market-dominant operators Guide governments to cost-effective national investment



Thanks, and Questions?

Copies of this presentation can be found in Keynote and PDF formats at:

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