Internet privacy targeted

Internet pornography, 'cramming' also on panels' agendas

• Internet privacy laws will be under the microscope Thursday at a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Under the joint leadership of Reps. Mary Bono Mack (R-Calif.) and Greg Walden (R-Ore.), the hearing will focus on existing laws to identify key issues for legislation.

Bono Mack and Walden have said the hearing is the first in a series that will examine Internet privacy issues.

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime will hold a hearing on the "Protecting Children from Internet Pornographers Act" from Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas).

The House Armed Service Subcommittee on Strategic Communications will hold an afternoon hearing discussing the evolution of the field since 9/11 with witnesses including Georgetown law professor Rosa Brooks, RAND Corporation social scientist Christopher Paul and Potomac Institute for Policy Studies senior fellow Tawfik Hamid.

The Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday will release the results of its yearlong investigation into "cramming," the practice of a wireless carrier billing consumers mystery fees for unauthorized services. The FCC has indicated its intent to crack down on cramming, but Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) has indicated he might still pursue legislative alternatives.

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Rep. Mary Bono Mack (R-Calif.)

The Senate Commerce Science subpanel will hold a Thursday hearing to discuss the potential of nanotechnology and consider the reauthorization of the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

Also on Thursday, the House Oversight Committee's Technology subpanel will hold a hearing on transparency and federal management IT systems that will likely include discussion of the Obama administration's previous efforts to publish data on government technology spending through the IT Dashboard.

The week will be capped off Friday at the House Judiciary Committee Intellectual Property subcommittee, which will hold a hearing on the forthcoming "Innovative Design and Privacy Protection Act" from subcommittee chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.).

Gautham Nagesh