

# July Newsletter for the Industry

Microsoft to Buy LinkedIn Excerpted from GeekWire, Todd Wilson & Nat Levy

Microsoft is making their largest acquisition to date by acquiring LinkedIn for a cash payment of \$26.2 billion. This amount translates to \$196 per share of LinkedIn stock.

The transaction is expected to close this calendar year.

LinkedIn will retain its distinct brand, culture and independence, the companies say in a news release. Jeff Weiner will remain CEO reporting to Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft. LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman could get a board seat at Microsoft as a result of this acquisition. No offer has been made to Hoffman, but he could be added to the board by the end of the year, when Microsoft's annual meeting typically happens.

One hold-up could be Hoffman's status as a board member for Mozilla Corp., which makes Internet Explorer competitor Firefox.

**Salary Study for 2016** (based on 2015 figures)

**The Salary Study is published!** Remember, this is to help you in your job hunts, promotions, budgeting or anything else that will assist you or your company in your successes. If you participated in the Salary Study, you will receive our thanks and a FREE copy of the published report. For those of you who did not participate, we have copies for sale at \$129 – go to [www.execq.com/store.html](http://www.execq.com/store.html) and click on Resume Management Services, then click on the *Buy Now* button which takes you to PayPal. Follow the instructions at PayPal.

India's Tourism Appeal Offers Potential for Timeshare

B S Rathor, chairman of India's timeshare body, the [All India Resort Developers Association \(AIRDA\)](#) says the timeshare industry has contributed to the country's rapidly growing popularity as a tourist destination.

India is ranked high in the Asia Pacific region and moving up each year in the list of the world's most attractive destinations. It is a popular destination for its rich natural resources, as well as its cultural panorama, with many world heritage sites. The World Travel and Tourism Council states that India will be a tourism hot spot in the current decade. Timeshare is an increasing contributor to the growth projected for India.

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**“Net Neutrality” Wins as Federal Court Sides with FCC**

Net neutrality — the colloquial term for regulations that prevent internet providers from slowing or blocking delivery of content to consumers — has been upheld by a federal appeals court. A three-judge panel with the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., sided with the Federal Communications Commission, defining the internet as a utility to which all Americans should have access, rather than a luxury subject to fewer regulations. Defining the internet as a utility prevents broadband providers from restricting access in order to promote their own services or give preferential treatment to partners. The ruling largely prioritizes the rights of web consumers over the interests of internet providers. The decision also includes wireless carriers, like AT&T and T-Mobile, as internet carriers subject to the same regulations. Hilton to Spin Off to Three Publically Traded Businesses Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. announced they have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC) for its timeshare business and the bulk of its real estate business in connection with the previously announced plans to pursue a separation into three distinct, publicly traded companies. The filings provide detailed information on the business, strategy and historical financial results of both entities on a “carve-out” basis, as well as further details on license and management agreements between the companies going forward. The filings will be updated with additional information in subsequent amendments as further information on the transactions is finalized prior to separation, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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Upcoming Events for 2016

**ATHOC Conference** – September 5-7, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand. Details at [www.athoc.com.au](http://www.athoc.com.au)

**RDO7 Resort Development Organisation** – September 20-22, Pestana Chelsea Bridge Hotel & Spa, London, England. Go to [www.rdoconference.org](http://www.rdoconference.org)

**The Lodging Conference** – September 26-29, Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ. Go to [www.thelodgingconference.com](http://www.thelodgingconference.com) for more information.

**Shared Ownership Investment Conference** – October 25-27, Eden Roc Resort, Miami Beach, FL. Details at [www.sharedownershipinvestment.com](http://www.sharedownershipinvestment.com)



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Remember, when you are looking for talented people in the timeshare, hospitality, fractional, vacation ownership business and the very best of the best, contact:

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#### Quote of the Month

“The essence of leadership is being able to see the iceberg before it hits the Titanic.” — *Arianna Huffington*

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