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Network Neutrality Disclosure

Meeting new FCC requirements

Last December, in a narrow 3-2 party-line vote, the FCC adopted the "Open Internet Order," also commonly known as the Network Neutrality Order. This established certain new rules for broadband Internet access service providers ("ISPs"), which apply equally to all fixed wireline (like DSL and cable) and wireless providers ("WISPs") alike.

The central issue pits content providers (Netflix is the most extreme example) against the carrier networks who provide the infrastructure for carrying that content. To what extent can the carriers manage their networks to provide equitable service to all of their customers, or is it discrimination if they treat some content differently?

For example, some carriers have chosen to throttle or block certain high-bandwidth content, or possibly charge more for its delivery. If it's their network, are they free to do so?

OCS has always taken a completely hands-off position regarding bandwidth usage. As we've written many times before, we charge for usage just as power and water utilities read a meter and do the same – we don't impede or interfere with delivery of the content in any way.

We've also written about Net Neutrality in previous newsletters (please see January 2011), warning that little or no good can come from government involvement in control of the Internet. Many feel the FCC overstepped its bounds with this ruling, and several efforts are under way to have it overturned by the courts or other Congressional action.

But in the meantime, the ruling goes into full effect this November 20th. OCS customers will see no change whatsoever in the delivery of our service ... but to be in compliance with the FCC, we will be required to post a formal, tedious, lengthy, and legal (so rather expensive) "Statement of Network Disclosure" that explains how our methods of content delivery are not discriminatory.

This statement will be posted on our website and in our office. It may also be necessary to have all new subscribers sign yet another form indicating they have read and understood these policies, and we may need to advise all of our current customers where they can view the statement.

Perhaps the FCC could access a few million dollars of stimulus funds to develop a cute "We're Net Neutral" logo that we can proudly display?



*Remembering Veterans Day
and Happy Thanksgiving
from all of us at OCS*

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The evolving use of the Internet

But is this really what it was intended for?

This subject really needs to be a lead story – and in a future issue it will be – but for now this shorter space will have to suffice.

In a nutshell, a current authoritative survey reports that use of the Internet for web browsing – which includes information lookup, research, shopping, social networking and much more – accounted for 39% of all Internet traffic in 2009. It was down to 20% in 2010, and just 17% so far in 2011.

Why the decline? Because RTE, or “Real-Time Entertainment”, has increased from 29% to 43% to 54% during those same periods – Netflix now accounts for nearly *one-third* of all prime-time Internet traffic! YouTube video adds another ten percent, and aggregate RTE during peak evening hours (6-10pm) totals a whopping 60% of all bandwidth consumed during that period.

The survey also notes a shift away from PCs to access entertainment. Fifty-five percent (55%) of all RTE in North America is ultimately displayed on television (either directly to a smart TV or via an intermediary like a game console or set-top device), or a mobile device or tablet. The remaining 45% is being delivered to desktop and laptop computers, but even some of that will be forwarded to a television. (Survey source: Sandvine.com)

Common Internet Scams

Don't become a victim!

We wrote about phone scams in our August 2011 issue, but it's becoming increasingly common and several OCS subscribers have been targeted – typically the elderly, whom the scammers hope will be more susceptible.

Typically, you receive a phone call from a so-called software provider representing a computer manufacturer or a major company such as McAfee, Norton, or Microsoft.

You're told that their “online monitoring system” has detected a virus on your computer, and you're in danger of losing all of your stored data – but they can help you to fix the problem.

You'll be asked to go to a specified website and download a solution – which, of course, in reality infects your computer and allows the hacker to secretly access everything on it, including personal information, online banking accounts, and passwords just to name a few.

If this scam didn't occasionally work, the perpetrators would stop doing it – so be cautious, and don't hesitate to call us if you're in doubt. The best remedy is to simply hang up on them ... don't become a victim!

Fan Mail



“I just want to let you know how much we appreciate you and your staff, and I want to say how great it is to have such knowledgeable and courteous service.” -LG

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- Pleasant Valley
- River Island
- Globe Drive
- Strathmore
- Terra Bella
- Lindsay
- Exeter
- Badger Hill
- Visalia East
- Yokohl Valley
- Camp Nelson
- Success Valley
- Richgrove
- Delano East

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds			Monthly Usage ¹	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service ³
	Min	Typ	Max			Installation	Equipment Deposit ²	
RESIDENTIAL								
Basic	125K	500K	750K	12GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	20GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS								
Business	375K	1.5M	2M	30GB	10			129.95
Professional	500K	2M	3M	35GB	25			159.95
Corporate	750K	3M	4M	45GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	60GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS								
Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson	125K	375K	750K	5GB	5			69.95

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
2. Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon termination of service after one year.
3. For areas served by Blue Ridge tower, add \$10 monthly rural service fee.

I Didn't Know That!

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