NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

Ready to pay tax on your Internet service?

The Federal Communications Commission is eyeing a proposal to tax broadband Internet service. The move would funnel money to the Connect America Fund, a subsidy created last year to expand Internet access or provide service to those who can't afford it.

So far, this issue has largely flown under the public's radar. However, "If members of Congress understood that the FCC is contemplating a broadband tax, they'd sit up and take notice" said Derek Turner, research director for Free Press, a consumer advocacy group that opposes the tax.

Several mega-companies, including AT&T, Sprint and even Google have expressed support for the idea. Of course, companies of that size are adept at using government subsidies to fund large-scale buildouts, which are ultimately used to their advantage.

Consumers already pay a fee on their landline and cellular phone bills to support the FCC's Universal Service Fund, which was created to ensure that everyone in the country has access to telephone service, even if they live in remote areas.

Last year, the FCC overhauled a $4.5 billion portion of the USF and converted it into a broadband Internet subsidy, called the Connect America Fund, aiming to subsidize the construction of high-speed Internet networks to the estimated 19 million Americans who allegedly lack access (fixed wireless and satellite services are typically not counted).

In recent years, with more people sending emails instead of making long-distance phone calls, money flowing into the program has begun to dry up. Like most taxes, the result has been hikes to USF fees to an ever-larger portion of phone bills to compensate.

The FCC could run into legal problems with the Internet Tax Freedom Act, a 1998 law that bans the taxing of Internet access. However, in typical government-speak, the FCC has long argued that USF is "a fee that providers choose to pass on to consumers and not a tax."

Free Press's Turner said it is unlikely that the FCC will make any controversial moves before November's election. We agree, but feel it's safe to speculate that the issue would probably move forward under a second Obama term, while a Romney administration would likely replace FCC chairman Julius Genachowski and this tax – or "fee" – would die on the vine.

698 MILLION VIRUSES, SPAM, AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE OCS CENTRAL SYSTEM CALL US ABOUT OCS OFFICE SCAN!

McAfee glitch disrupts Internet connections

For subscribers to McAfee's popular anti-virus service, an automatic update in mid-August is still causing occasional blockage of Internet service, and OCS technicians have handled several support calls from customers who were affected.

McAfee subscribers who use their computers daily will likely have already encountered and resolved the problem. However, others who use their computers less frequently could still experience problems with DAT files 6807 or 6808. If you use McAfee VirusScan and cannot browse to any website, there are two basic solutions.

The first option is to hold the F8 function key while rebooting to

Is antivirus software falling behind?

Antivirus software developers need to run suspicious code in their labs in order to create malware-identifying signatures. But what would happen if they couldn't keep up?

That problem is increasingly the case, as more than 50,000 new malware strains are introduced every day. Analyzing malware is labor intensive, so antivirus companies have automated the analysis process in order to keep their databases reasonably current.

But if it was no longer possible to analyze malware samples automatically, the sheer number of new strains would quickly overwhelm the signature databases and render them hopelessly out of date.

Researchers at Georgia Tech's Information Security Center have demonstrated techniques that, if widely adopted by the criminal underground, could seriously handicap automated malware analysis by making it ineffective and unscalable.

In addition to criminal elements, global government and military efforts at stealthy cyber-spying and network disruption are finding their way into the mainstream of consumer malware. Examples include the recent super-viruses DuQu, Gauss, Flame and Stuxnet – and Flashback, which compromised 500,000 Mac OS X computers in April 2012.

This new class of malware also shares the distinction that they automatically tailor themselves to each individual computer they attack, in contrast to more generic viruses that use more of a one-size-fits-all approach that's much easier to identify and defend against.

There's no question that antivirus software developers have their work cut out for them. At the same time, computer users should be reminded to run a/v software, keep it current, and be wary of blatant phishing attempts.

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"Safe Mode with Networking," then browse to mcafee.com and download their latest update.

The second option is to uninstall all McAfee programs, reboot the computer, then connect to mcafee.com, login to your account and download the latest update.

If you're using McAfee VirusScan and are experiencing this kind of problem and need more assistance, please call OCS and we'll be happy to help.

Please note that this problem is strictly limited to McAfee VirusScan. Customers using OCS OfficeScan, or Norton or other anti-virus software are not affected.

Fan Mail

"Thank you for getting me straightened out on Facebook, I appreciate all your time, patience and knowledge. All of you are so great there at OCS – I can't understand why anyone would go elsewhere." -JS

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						*All Plans*		
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	8GB	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!

- OCS provides "A-to-Z" technology services
- Complete computer service and repair shop
- Variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website development and hosting
- Programming and custom development
- eCommerce solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services

To set Account Preferences or make Payments Online, click **UserAdmin** *on our website*

On the road? Call our toll-free support at 888-OACYSCOM