

Talk of the Town



February 2008

Sam Hartley: Fiber-to-the-Home Improves Economic Development Opportunities

Late last summer our contractors and installation crews constructed new Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services in the communities of Lake City, Sun City and Hazelton. They also finished the rural Burlington project and parts of the rural Turon project.

We are very pleased with the progress of our Five Year buildout plan and anticipate, at our current pace, to have all of our members on FTTH facilities by 2011. This is an exciting project because it allows us to provide very fast Internet connections to our members and can accommodate other advanced services that require lots of bandwidth as they are developed.

We believe that deploying FTTH is a large step forward for

our serving area. In addition to the capability of providing our customers practically unlimited bandwidth, an all fiber cable system has the added advantages of giving us a more efficient telco operation and it enhances our region's economic development opportunities.

Fiber cable does not suffer from the same types of troubles that copper cables have. In fact fiber cable, if properly installed, has far fewer outage incidents and is a lot easier to manage than copper based systems. Copper cable systems rely on a technology called DSL to deliver high speed services. This technology will not allow deployment of high speed Internet beyond about three miles from central office type technologies. In order for the high speed data signal to

work, installation of DSL on a copper system requires the field technicians to "condition" the cables; this requires significant field labor. Whereas, a single office technician makes a few inputs in a computer program to make high speed data work for a
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Special points of interest:

- FIBER-TO-THE-HOME (FTTH) DEPLOYMENTS TO RURAL MEMBERS IS ONGOING
- WE BELIEVE FTTH IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR AREA.
- SCTELCOM CAN HELP BUSINESS CUSTOMERS DESIGN AND INSTALL BUSINESS SYSTEMS TO "FIT" THEIR NEED

WHAT's In YOUR Computer?

Malware, from "Malicious" and "Software", is a software program that is designed to specifically damage or disrupt a system, such as a virus, worm, or a Trojan horse. Malware can be introduced via common communication tools such as email and instant messaging. Trojan horses enter a system from seemingly innocuous software downloads or web browsing and some malware detect and exploit weaknesses in the underlying computer operating system such as Windows. The consumer is generally not aware that their computer is infected until they specifically check the computer for malware using any of the numerous virus scanning software available. The unfortunate aspect of this is that the consumer may be suffering slower computer performance, potential data loss, and their computer might be used to retransmit worms and viruses through email, instant messaging, and operating system vulnerabilities.

So how do you avoid computer infections?

- Only email and start instant messaging sessions with trusted sources.
- Never open an email attachment unless it is from a trusted source.
- Never click on an unsolicited or suspicious link to a website.
- Don't use file sharing applications such as Kazaaa, Limewire or Bearshare. These programs are often used as fronts for malware infections.
- Avoid free downloads unless you are absolutely sure you can trust the source. Often these freebies are packaged with a good deal of malware, so be careful.
- Use MySafetyNet to automatically and regularly scan your computer for malware.

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CHECK OUT SCTELCOM'S INTERNET PLANS

GET CONNECTED FOR AS
LOW AS \$19.95 PER
MONTH

CALL US AT ANY OF OUR LOCATIONS:

KIOWA	620-825-1000
MEDICINE LODGE	620-930-1000
PRATT	620-933-1000
TOLL FREE	877-723-6875

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“WE BELIEVE THAT

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customer using FTTH technology (once the FTTH system is installed).

Due to our FTTH deployments, we believe that we are making it easier for business and residential customers to operate and communicate in a fashion equivalent to customers of big city telephone companies. We are pleased to improve the quality of life in rural Kansas and Oklahoma and expect our service to assist with rural development projects and the introduction of new industry to our area. We firmly believe that our ability to deliver high

quality services over high quality equipment and facilities in all of our territory will help close the gap between the haves and have-nots and create more economic development opportunities.

We invite you, our members, to never let telecommunications be a stumbling block to your business communications plans. We have designed and installed and maintain a variety of business communications systems. And it is safe to say that each one is a little different due to the varied needs of our customers. We can help you design and implement a

system that suits your particular business requirements and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of your operations. We would like to think that by helping you improve your business we are, in effect, helping the whole community.

Don't forget, SCTelcom has also been very instrumental in securing grants for hospitals and schools and we will be more than happy to assist you with grant development for other projects.

By Sam Hartley

**MYSAFETYNET, BY
SCTELCOM, WILL
DETECT AND
REMOVE
“MALWARE”
AUTOMATICALLY**

What's in Your Computer? - Continued from Page 1

- Use MySafetyNet to maintain your critical Windows updates.
- Use MySafetyNet's built-in firewall.
- Use MySafetyNet to send you a monthly email with the status update of your system.
- Use MySafetyNet to block unwanted pop-up advertising.

By the way, did you know that MySafetyNet utilizes award winning malware detection and removal software?

If you are certain that you have malware on your computer or you suspect it because your computer is “slow”, you could purchase and install a spyware and virus removal utility from a variety of sources. However, it has been our experience that, depending on the nature of the problem, the clean up could take hours. We have a team of crack computer professionals and, if you prefer, you can bring your computer to one of our offices and we will clean the computer for you for a nominal fee. But, unless you buy protection for your computer, the infection and infection removal process will be repeated.

In addition to the features listed above MySafetyNet also provides:

- Parental controls
- Automated disk maintenance and optimization
- Free technical support
- Free professional installation

For all of these reasons we highly recommend MySafetyNet for your computer security needs. Besides, you don't want your computer to manage your time, you want to manage your time in your own fashion and MySafetyNet will help you do just that.



**“THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY IS
WIDE OPEN IF YOU ARE
PREPARED.” UNKNOWN**