



April 2011

## Wireless (In)Security

Using a wireless connection point in your home or office seems to be the easy solution when using multiple computers or when wanting to enjoy the flexibility of using your laptop in any room of the house or the office. However, this could be your worst nightmare. What most people don't consider is that prying eyes may be tapping into your most sensitive personal information.

Wireless routers have become very inexpensive to purchase and very easy to install for the average user. Most of us purchase the router, take it out of the box, plug it into our high speed internet connection, and start surfing. This seems harmless enough on the surface, but what information do you have stored on your computer that you would not want anyone else to see? What most users fail to remember is the signal from the wireless device is not confined to just the living or working area they occupy. A wireless signal, by its very nature, is designed to go through walls and floors. Could someone in the apartment above you or the house across the street be picking up your signal? The answer is a resounding YES!!! If your wireless signal is picked up by a malicious user, chances are they will be able to access all your computer files. Here are a few ideas to help ensure your connection isn't "overheard" by someone who shouldn't be listening.

**Range:** A very simple tip would be to limit the range of your wireless signal. This could be accomplished by placing the device at the lowest point in the house, maybe the basement. Something this easy may result in good coverage for the entire house, but it could also keep the signal from straying too far from its intended area of use.

**SSID:** The SSID, or service set identifier, is the network name of the wireless network. Other computers and wireless devices use this to gain access to the network. The default setting of many older routers is to broadcast this ID in order to make it very easy for new computers to join the system, but by broadcasting this ID "in the open" any computer can easily tap into the connection. To help protect your network, turn off the broadcast feature and change the SSID to a string of alphanumeric characters.

**MAC Filtering:** The MAC, media access control, address is a hard-coded identifier in your network card that is used to identify your pc or other wireless device on the network. By turning MAC address filtering ON, you can limit the access to only the MAC addresses of equipment you load into the wireless access device.

**Logins and Passwords:** Most all equipment manufacturers use a standard default username and password combination for their particular products. These login identifiers are widely known to most all casual users of wireless products. When it comes to file sharing, firewalls, or any type of access, the most basic of all protections is the using of unique logins and passwords. Most end users never change the defaults leaving themselves vulnerable. Just by changing these basic items, your chances of being "hacked" into are greatly reduced. If you do not turn off file sharing altogether,

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use a strong password to enable file sharing by a computer user who would have to know your particular password. When using a firewall, make sure a password is needed to gain access through it. Change these passwords frequently, don't use easily guessed words, and use a number in the sequence to add more difficulty for a hacker to gain entry to your system.

**WEP:** Wired Equivalent Policy is an encryption protocol, or key, that helps protect the wireless link between your router and your computer. Simply turn the WEP key on to help afford an added layer of protection. Using the strongest encryption, currently 128 bit, is recommended.

**WPA (PSK):** A similar but more secure version of WEP is called Wi-Fi Protected Access. This newer technology uses a pre-shared key to make sure the devices "talking" to each other are authorized to do so. When configuring a router, the user enters a phrase that must be authenticated by any other user who wishes to join the network. Because this phrase is user specific and has to be entered identically to gain access to the network, you can feel more secure when installing a wireless network.

**Updates:** Installing updates and patches are essential not only to your operating system, but also this crucial procedure is another line of defense for your wireless network. Manufacturers release "fixes" for known problems regarding the security of their products. Most producers will list the latest and greatest firmware release on their websites and make them available for downloading at no charge.

If you have any questions about your network security, please contact our office for more information.

## Allocation Statements Mailed

Recently, allocation statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010 were mailed to our members. To receive this allocation statement, you must have been an active member (that is to say you subscribed to RTC telephone service) sometime during the period between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. The allocation statement reflects the patronage dividend you or your company earned during this time. The patronage dividend is calculated by determining the percentage you spent with RTC relative to the total amount of money paid in by our members.

The payments of these allocations are paid in 10% installments. As in years prior, you will not receive the entire amount listed on your statement this year. The checks mailed this coming December will be a compilation of several previous years' allocations. This process helps to smooth the cash payments from year to year ensuring your cooperative has adequate cash reserves for day-to-day operations.

As you can see from this previous year's allocation, your cooperative continues to operate in a very financially sound way. If you did not receive a statement and you had telephone service between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010, or if you have any questions pertaining to these statements, please call our office at 486-3211.

## Introducing Video On Demand

RTC Television Service is proud to announce we now offer our customers Video On Demand (VOD). If you aren't familiar with this service, it allows our TV customers to watch movies whenever they want, however they want. With VOD, you can start the movie at your convenience, pause the show to get popcorn, or stop the show and resume play up to 24 hours later. If you miss a line in the movie, simply rewind to the missed spot and hit play. You can even start watching a movie in one room and finish it in another. Because you don't have to "return" the movie, there are no late fees. VOD turns your living room into a theatre. Call today to find out more about RTC Television and VOD.

## RTC Communications... Simple, Real Solutions

### VISIT US

244 N. Main Street  
Montgomery, IN 47558  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

### CONTACT US

Telephone 812-486-3211 or  
1-800-272-2356  
Internet  
[www.rtccom.net](http://www.rtccom.net) or  
[rtccom@rtccom.com](mailto:rtccom@rtccom.com)  
Internet Technical Support  
812-486-2300

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Indiana Underground  
1-800-382-5544  
(At least two (2) working days  
before you dig)

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- \* Payments are due by the 17th of each month.
- \* Accounts with a past due balance are subject to a late payment fee.
- \* Please include your bill stub with your payment.
- \* For your convenience, RTC offers Automatic Bank Deduct. Payments can be taken out of your checking or savings account.
- \* There is a drop box located at the RTC business office.

## The Importance Of Your Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of RTC Communications is scheduled to take place Tuesday, April 19th at the Simon J. Graber Community Center. While we come together and share a few snacks and hope our name is drawn out for one of the grand prizes, this meeting serves a couple of very important functions in the operations of your cooperative.

One is the reporting of the state of the company. At this meeting, our General Manager, Steve Bartlett, and the entire Board of Directors, will report on how well your cooperative did financially the previous year, what was done to improve services, new product offerings, and plans for the company as we move forward. This is a great opportunity for the members to get answers first-hand as to the overall direction that your company is headed. We encourage our members to ask questions and also to let us know what additional services or products you would like to see offered.

Another vital function is the election of your Board members. Each annual meeting, directors are elected to represent the members of the exchange in which the Board member resides. The Board is responsible for providing direction to, and oversight of, the General Manager for the operation of your cooperative. They act as the voice of the members in making sure that the company is performing as well as it possibly can. Your board members spend many hours per year learning the trends taking place in the industry, reviewing the financial performance of your cooperative, and developing goals and policies for the company. Their role is to make sure the employees of RTC best serve the members' needs.

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, please call our office at 486-3211.

## New Customers of RTC Communications

### Trinity-Williams Exchange

Gulley Logging	388-5623
Jason Hedge	388-6328
Kimberly Godsey	388-6537
Viking Wright	388-6638
Aurora Wright	388-7198
Jermaine Thornton	388-7282

### Montgomery Exchange

Kerry Wittmer	486-2315
Fred Troyer	486-2318
Ronda Bradley	486-2320
David W. Raber Jr.	486-2323
Shawn Porter	486-2324
Raber Kitchens	486-2569
Levi W. Raber	486-2841

### Alfordsville-Glendale Exchange

Don Mattingly	644-7457
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### Plainville Exchange

Paul Wm. DeMoss	687-7166
Ervin Graber	687-7816





**RTC COMMUNICATIONS**

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

## The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Members of the **DAVISS-MARTIN COUNTY RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION**

will be held at the Simon J. Graber Community Building, CR 900 East  
(Cannelburg Road), Montgomery, Indiana on TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

### **The purpose of this Meeting:**

1. The election of two directors.
2. Any other business which may come before the meeting.

The following members have been nominated for Directors by the nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, pursuant to the Bylaws:

**Alfordsville Area: Curtis Hornaday**  
12059 E 950 S  
Loogootee, IN 47553

**Plainville Area: Bennie Lawyer**  
9232 N St. Road 57  
Washington, IN 47501

As always, door prizes will be given during the meeting, with the two grand prizes being a 42" high definition flat screen digital television and a 17" Dell laptop computer. You must be present to win. Also, every member present shall receive \$15 off their next phone bill. Special offers will be available for those in attendance. Face painting and activities will be provided for children. Free blood pressure screenings will be offered, and refreshments will be served. Doors open and registration begins at 5:30 p.m. EDT with entertainment provided by the Barr-Reeve High School Choir at 6:30 p.m. Members eligible to vote may register and cast their ballots for the candidate of their choice before balloting is declared closed.

**Bennie Lawyer, Secretary-Treasurer**