



**DIAL
TONE**

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Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association

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Businesses: Secure Your Phone System

If your business utilizes a phone system, it's in your best interest to make sure it's secure. When a phone system is hacked, it can cost businesses significant amounts of money and resources.

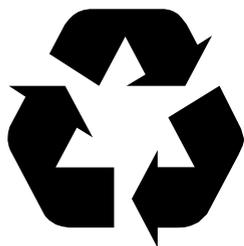
So how can a hacked phone system cost you money? Once a hacker gains access to your phone system they often make fraudulent toll calls. Many times, these calls are to international locations where the per-minute rate can be much higher than domestic calls. The hackers may even 'sell' access to your system to other hackers. And while they have this access, they may be able to do other things such as listen to voice mail messages and monitor conversations, all of which can compromise the business's security.

So how can you protect yourself and your phone system?

- Make sure only the features you need are enabled: Modern phone systems offer hundreds of features, some of which your business may never use. Disabling unused features can eliminate some points of access for hackers. (567-3535)
- Only allow trusted people to access your system: Just like you shouldn't allow unauthorized users to access your computer system, don't allow unauthorized users to access your phone system.
- Use strong passwords and change them frequently. One of the most common points of entry for hackers is the use of simple or default passwords. Make sure the passwords used to access the system (including users' individual voice mail passwords) are complex and changed regularly.

It's important to note that there is no 'guaranteed' way to prevent a hacker from accessing your business's phone system. But, taking a few precautions can go a long way to prevent unnecessary problems in the future. (927-4461)

Recycle Old Telephone Directories



The 2016 WCTA Telephone Directories were recently delivered to members. Please remember to recycle your old telephone directories by placing them with the rest of your recycling, or taking them to the nearest recycling center.

Catch Your Favorite Shows Anywhere with WatchTVEverywhere

Being away from your TV doesn't always mean missing your favorite show. WCTA Digital TV subscribers can now enjoy free, exclusive online content from more than 40 popular channels with WatchTVEverywhere.

WatchTVEverywhere allows you to watch TV programs on a device other than your TV. The actual method can vary by content provider, but in most cases you can view it on devices like your laptop or desktop computer, your tablet, or even your smartphone. And you don't even have to be at home!

Read on for some answers to frequently asked questions about WatchTVEverywhere.

Who can use TV Everywhere?

The WatchTVEverywhere service is available at no extra charge to WCTA's Expanded Basis Digital TV customers. (567-3419)

How much does it cost?

The WatchTVEverywhere service is included with WCTA Expanded Basic Digital TV service.

Where can I use WatchTVEverywhere?

Well, just about everywhere. The service works anywhere you have an Internet connection: Inside your home, at the office, shopping mall, airport, etc. Wired and WiFi connections work best. You can view content solely using the data plan on your smartphone, but the service can use a lot of data so be mindful of how much data is in your plan.

What kinds of programs are available?

That will depend on the network being viewed. Some networks stream live content (CNN, for example) while other networks offer full length shows instead (TBS, for example). (568-3379)

What kind of devices can I use with WatchTVEverywhere?

You can view content on your laptop or desktop PC by logging in to www.watchtveverywhere.com. Most providers also have specific apps available for both android and iOS devices. Visit the appropriate app store to find the apps. Once downloaded, you will need to enter your WatchTVEverywhere username and password to gain access to the exclusive content that is available (you should only have to do this once for each app). Some providers also offer content on devices such as Apple TV or Roku boxes.

How many devices can I use?

In most cases the number of devices is unlimited. However, the content provider may limit how many devices can actually access the service at the same time.

How do I sign up?

To register, do the following steps. Note: Have a recent copy of your WCTA statement handy. You will need some information from the statement to register.

- Visit www.watchtveverywhere.com
- Select 'Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association' from the drop-down provider list
- Then select 'Register'
- Complete the information on the Registration Screen and press 'Register' at the bottom of the screen.
- You will receive a registration confirmation via e-mail. You must follow the steps in the e-mail to complete the registration process.
- Enjoy!

Two New Employees Join WCTA

Tom Eastvold has been hired as a Technician.

Tom's responsibilities as a technician include installing telecommunications services, broadband Internet, and digital TV service and helping customers resolve issues they may have with WCTA services.

Tom lives in Buffalo Center with his wife and two children. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and working on his classic car.



Heidi Obermeyer has been hired as a customer service representative.

As part of her daily duties, Heidi will be assisting WCTA members with payments, service needs, and general customer service issues.

Heidi lives in Lake Mills and has 3 children. In her spare time she enjoys reading, long walks, and spending time with her family.



*We welcome both
Tom and Heidi to the WCTA team.*

National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry allows consumers to choose whether or not they receive telemarketing calls at home. Registering will stop most calls. However, calls from political organizations, charities, companies conducting surveys, or companies with whom you have done business with during the last 18 months are all allowed under the law. (584-2985)

Residential customers can register their home and wireless numbers, but business lines are not covered by the registry. Numbers will appear on the list the day after it is registered. But, telemarketers have up to 31 days to remove your number from their calling database.

Consumers who wish to register their phone numbers with the National Do Not Call Registry can do so on the Internet at www.donotcall.gov. Consumers may also register via the telephone by calling 1-888-382-1222 (for TTY call 1-866-290-4236). Please note that you must call from the number you wish to register.

Making Sure Passwords Work

It used to be the only "password" we had to remember was a 4-digit PIN for an ATM card. Today, it seems like we use passwords for everything from our e-mail to protecting our financial records.

Unfortunately, many of us use something simple and easy to remember for our passwords. Those simple and easy to remember passwords are also easy for others to guess or "hack". For example, a simple 4-number password only has about ten thousand combinations. A longer 8-number code has about ten million combinations. But, if you change that 8-number password to one that includes a mix of letters and numbers you increase the number of combinations to somewhere in the trillions. (852-4441)

Now that we know why it's important to use strong passwords let's look at how to create one. Here are some do's and don'ts to picking a good password.

Do:

- A good password should have at least 8 characters. Longer passwords are harder to hack.
- Using a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols will make your password stronger. Also, use a mix of upper and lower case letters.
- Change your password on a regular basis.

Don't:

- Don't use any easy to guess words such as your name, address, phone number or dates.
- Don't use only letters or only numbers.
- Don't use the default password.
- Don't leave a list of your passwords by your computer.

Take a minute to evaluate all the passwords you use and update them where necessary. After you have created a strong password - **DON'T GIVE IT OUT!**

Telephone Numbers

Buffalo Center

Miller M 641-561-2010
 Sahr Chance 641-562-2082

Crystal Lake

Chisholm John & Lisa 641-565-3629
 English Robert & Lisa 641-565-3024
 Larson Spencer 641-565-3037
 Stohr C 641-565-3044
 West K 641-565-3103

Fertile

Bunch Jr Edward 641-797-2013
 Ebbers J 641-797-2015

Forest City

Abels Dusty & Amy 641-581-2048
 Copas Samantha 641-585-0061
 Henn Cindy L 641-581-2727
 Holland Jerold & Winifred 641-585-3009
 Innomax Corp 641-581-2121
 Koeneke Dallas & Marissa 641-581-2110
 Langfald Doug 641-581-2727
 Olszanowski Alvin & Roxie 641-585-0002
 Ruiter Byron & Barb 641-585-3349
 Seglem John & Tracie 641-581-2035
 The Paddler's Tap 641-585-0303
 Wellik D 641-585-0148

Glenville

Bridley Annette 507-448-2905

Grafton

Buechele Dylan 641-748-2019

Kensett

Meyer M 641-845-2023

Lake Mills

Berg Jeremy & Kim 641-592-0083
 Cruz Ivelisse 641-592-0106
 Greenwood J 641-592-0237

Lake Mills (Continued)

Harig N & M 641-592-0229
 Hermanson Tyrel 641-592-0120
 Norris Tony 641-592-0240
 Perez Elioscar & Barbara 641-592-0236
 Promes Jake 641-592-0084
 Singelstad Kris & Casey 641-592-0255
 Stevens Brandon 641-592-1999
 Thorson Charles 641-592-0250

Leland

Good M 641-567-3017

Manly

Faber Helen & Bev 641-454-3332
 Meyer Brad & Rache 641-454-4016

Mason City

Schloemer Al & Glenys 641-243-7025
 Stricker Derek D 641-243-7024
 Willett T 641-243-7023

Northwood

Finders Keepers Antiques
 & Gifts 641-324-3097
 Haenel Edith 641-324-2375
 Jim Karlynn 641-323-7043
 Katcher Zach 641-323-7041
 Klitzke Florence 641-324-2315
 Lund Brian & Mindy 641-323-7048
 Neeley Aaron & Michelle 641-323-7094
 Nexus Solutions 641-324-4992
 Norland Paul 641-324-2375
 Sitch Daniel 641-323-7042
 Taylor Rachel 641-323-7045
 Thompson Ray 641-323-7111
 Treslan M 641-324-9900

Thompson

Gonzales Jessika 641-584-2031
 Reed Daniel 641-584-2086

Visit Us

704 East Main
 Lake Mills, IA 50450
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Monday - Friday

Contact Us

Telephone
 641-592-6105
 or
 1-800-592-6105

Internet
 www.wctatel.net
 wcta@wctatel.net

Internet Tech Support
 1-877-928-2835

After Hours Repair

Telephone and Cable TV
 1-800-216-6951

Call Before You Dig

Dial 811
 or
Iowa One Call
 1-800-292-8989

Gopher State One Call
 1-800-252-1166

Payment Info

- ✦ Payments are due on the 20th of each month.
- ✦ Accounts with past due balances are subject to a \$3 Late Payment Charge.
- ✦ Please include bill stub with your payment.
- ✦ For your convenience, WCTA offers Automatic Bank Deduct. Payments can be taken out of your checking or savings account.
- ✦ There is a drop box at the WCTA business office.

Other Payment Locations

Thompson
 Titonka Savings Bank
Forest City
 Manufacturers Bank & Trust
 Titonka Savings Bank
Grafton
 Farmers State Bank
Emmons
 Security Bank Minnesota

eStatement

For eStatement online account access visit:
 www.wctatel.net

 Find us on
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DIAL TONE QUOTE

“Middle age is the awkward time period when Father Time starts catching up with Mother Nature.”

- Harold Coffin



BEFORE



YOU DIG

Dial 811 or
Iowa One Call
 1-800-292-8989

Gopher State One Call
 1-800-252-1166

Call 48 Hours In Advance.



\$5.00 Credit

IF YOUR NUMBER APPEARS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE DIAL TONE IN PARENTHESIS AND YOU NOTIFY US BY THE 15TH OF THIS MONTH, A \$5.00 CREDIT WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

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