

*Happy Holidays!  
We will be closed  
Friday, December 23  
and Monday, December 26  
for the Christmas Eve and  
Christmas Day holidays.  
We will also be closed  
Monday, January 2, 2006  
in observance of  
New Year's.*

[continued from page 3]

## Example Of Acceleration

An easy way to understand what the Accelerator does is to consider a simplified example.

Using maximum graphics acceleration, a first-time visit to a Web page with the Accelerator will be up to 3 times faster, with an average first-time visit 2 times faster.

For example, the first time you request the Amazon home page, the following events occur:

- The request for the Web page is automatically routed by the Accelerator on your PC to the Acceleration Network.
- The Acceleration Network retrieves the requested Web page from the Amazon Web site.
- Elements of the Web page (both text and graphics) are encoded and cached before being sent to your PC.
- These page elements are then decoded by the Accelerator, and assembled and delivered to the Web browser.

Subsequent visits to the same page will be up to 5 times faster

The next time you visit the Amazon home page (which may have changed since the last visit), the following events occur:

- Your request for the Web page is automatically routed by the Accelerator to the Acceleration Network.
- The Acceleration Network retrieves the requested Amazon Web page. Having identified the page elements that had previously been retrieved in a prior

visit, the Acceleration Network only compresses and transmits those components that changed.

- Data already stored on your PC - plus any new page elements - are assembled by the Accelerator on your PC and delivered to the Web browser.

Call our office and then go to the [www.ltc.coop](http://www.ltc.coop) or [www.rgtc.coop](http://www.rgtc.coop) and MWT web page to download this software.

## How fast is it?

The table below shows some popular Web site pages and the range of acceleration you should expect to see from the Accelerator. These numbers were obtained using the Accelerator Performance Test Tool.

Average time is calculated based on loading the home page. A first time visit to a Web page loads on average 2 times faster. Subsequent visits to the same page load, on average, 3 times faster.

POPULAR WEB SITES	*BEFORE ACCELERATION	*WITH ACCELERATION	HOW MUCH FASTER?
Ebay	11.65 seconds	2.97 seconds	3.92 X faster!
USA Today	32.43 seconds	3.77 seconds	8.60 X faster!
Mapquest.com	30.56 seconds	5.01 seconds	6.10 X faster!
Monster.com	11.74 seconds	3.04 seconds	3.86 X faster!
CNN	11.68 seconds	2.26 seconds	>5.17 X faster!



one  
VOICE

Working Together  
for 30 Years

DECEMBER 2005

Volume I • Issue 1

## From our General Manager, Dave Lull:

This is the first of our quarterly newsletters with a new look and name. You will note the statement "Working together for 30 years" as a part of the new look. In 1976 LaValle and Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperatives began this long-term effort. At that time, the idea of sharing management, staff expertise, spare parts, costs of expensive work and test equipment was new. We've come along way since then. Today, our two cooperatives work together on many projects both at the board level and throughout each organization. The cooperatives member base, services offered and business issues mirror each other in so many ways it only makes sense to provide a single newsletter.

In future issues we will share information about the cooperative's service areas and staff to better acquaint you with each of these great organizations.

### *Cellular Calls - Local or Long Distance?*

During the past few years many members have asked "why are certain cell phone numbers considered a long distance call from my community but a local call from my neighbor's community?" Two years ago we were proactive in solving this problem by approaching the cellular providers to start the agreement process.

However not all cellular providers have completed the negotiation process. After much work and negotiating we are now able to tell you that some providers and their cellular numbers can be dialed like a local number. The first cellular company to sign an agreement with our Coops is Alltel. The cooperatives continue to work on a contract with US Cellular. We will notify will you when this and any other contracts have been completed.

### *The Hype Over VOIP — Voice Over Internet Protocol*

You may have noticed national advertising and news about a new type of telephone service. This usually is referred to as Broadband Phone Service or VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). We are currently exploring options for adopting this technology with the possibility of offering this service. Here is what our investigation has revealed: First and foremost while these flat rate pricing deals may seem compelling, most do not include all charges. In fact in many cases, the actual monthly fee will range up to \$60.00 or more. After price, quality and reliability are important risks to consider with VOIP service. VOIP reliability, consistent connections, access to 911 emergency service and failure to work during power outages are some of the

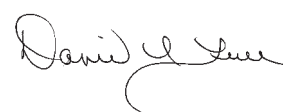
primary reasons why we do not recommend relying on VOIP only at this time. With respect to quality of the voice call using VOIP, our research found that there is a high incidence of calls that sound hollow or echoed, and calls that are not completed. Finally, many features that consumers have come to rely on are not perfected yet. The bottom line is that VOIP service still needs development. The Coops are monitoring VOIP technology advancements so we may be in a position to offer the very best solution to our members.

### *Capital Investments — Facilities Update*

As telecommunications technology speeds ahead, the next hot button for the cooperative is fiber to the home. Occam Networks has selected our Soldiers Grove exchange as a beta test site for their new fiber to the home product. Planning and engineering for this project began in early July and should be completed before the first hard frost.

### *Happy Holidays and Thank You*

Happy Holidays to all our members. I would like to say thank you to all of our customers for doing business with our cooperatives. We wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season. Your patronage is greatly appreciated.



## Alarm Systems Provide More Than Security

Alarm systems are becoming increasingly popular among our residential customers. Over the past few years, installation prices have dropped and homeowners have placed greater value on the need for home or farm security. Our Coops offer a variety of security system options for both residential and commercial applications.

We'd like to share with you how these systems are configured. An entry level system uses motion detectors to scan building interiors for intruders, while more advanced and sophisticated systems use motion detectors, window detectors, door sensors and even streaming video to display system status remotely over an Internet connection. Furthermore, systems can be custom designed to a particular set of needs including the status of your building – for detection of excessive moisture or noise level, detection of noxious gases or the absence of heat. In particular, we offer some systems which are capable of monitoring whether or not a furnace is functioning properly. These types of

systems are very useful and provide great peace of mind to seasonal residents or businesses where their owners live hundreds of miles away.

Sensaphone, a company that manufactures environmental monitoring equipment, recently unveiled a remote monitoring solution called the "Farm Sitter." This unit can monitor poultry houses, greenhouses and dairy buildings with up to eight zones. The unit is capable of calling up to eight different

*The Central Station  
Monitoring company  
is the first line of  
defense if there is a  
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business.*

telephone numbers to report an alert condition. System status can also be displayed using a web page.

Once you have selected an alarm system, you will choose how you would like it monitored. A growing number of alarm system owners are opting for Central Station Monitoring (CSM). The CSM company is the first line of defense if there is a problem or situation at your home or business. The CSM is monitoring alarms all over the country seven days a week, twenty four hours a day, 365 days a year. When you arm your system, that status is indicated at the CSM. The alarm panel stays in daily contact with the CSM, sharing information such as battery condition and whether AC power is functional or if there is an intrusion. The system immediately informs the CSM facility if an intruder is detected and after determining that it is not a false alarm, law enforcement officials are notified.

Keep your home or business safe and secure. For more information on alarm system options and technology, please call us. We will evaluate your home or business for an alarm system at no charge.

## Lifeline and Link-Up Programs

*Telephone service is considered a necessity for daily modern life, yet the cost of activating and maintaining such service may be prohibitively expensive for low-income consumers. Under Congressional mandate, the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Federal Universal Service Fund includes the Low-Income Program discounts on telephone services to qualifying*

*consumers. Our cooperatives participate in this telephone discount program.*

### *Applying for Benefits*

*Applicants need to certify their eligibility to receive the program's benefits by proving participation in any of the following programs:*

*(continued ➡)*

## Dialup and DSL Accelerator Service

### How does it work?

The Accelerator is designed to provide maximum acceleration for the Web sites you visit regularly.

So, the more you surf, the faster your favorite pages will load!

Specifically, The Accelerator speeds up the delivery of Web pages four ways:

- **Compression.** The Accelerator delivers text and graphics more efficiently, using a proprietary compression technology that significantly reduces the size of Web pages and page elements sent to your browser.
- **Caching.** The Accelerator intelligently retains and reuses Web pages and page elements that have previously been sent to your PC. That's why the longer Accelerator is in use on your PC, the faster your Web pages will load.
- **Persistent Connections.** The Accelerator uses proprietary techniques to carefully manage and optimize the communication between your modem and our network of servers through a persistent connection. This eliminates the time wasted re-establishing and closing connections.

- *Wisconsin Works – W2*
- *Food Stamps*
- *Title 19 Medical Assistance*
- *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*
- *Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)*
- *Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit*

*Applicants simply complete an Information Release Authorization Form which is available in the business*

## 2005 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Each year our cooperatives awards scholarships to deserving graduating seniors whose parents are current cooperative telephone customers.*

*Scholarship applicants must be graduating high school seniors enrolled in either a two or four year college or university.*

*The applicant typically expresses an interest in working in a rural community after graduation. For 2005, scholarships were awarded to the following students:*

*Kiersten Fanta, Kickapoo Valley High School - \$500.00*

*Jay Mittelstaedt, Reedsburg High School - \$500.00*

*Joe Junior (J.J.) Gates, Reedsburg High School - \$250.00*

*Kelssi Copus, North Crawford High School - \$250.00*

*Nichole McCormick, Richland Center High School - \$250.00*

*Josh Nelson, Kickapoo High School - \$250.00*

*Derrick Brown, Riverdale High School - \$250.00*

*Our scholarship funds are generated from forfeited capitol credits. Some members donate their capitol credits to the fund. However, the majority of the fund comes from returned checks of previous cooperative members who cannot be found due to address changes.*

*Since 2000, the cooperatives are proud to have awarded over \$9,000.00 in scholarships to students attending both four year universities and technical colleges.*

- **Optional Content Filtering.** The Accelerator lets you block unsolicited content, such as pop-up ads and in page ads, which contributes to long wait times.

*[continued on back page]*

### LAVALLE LATE FEE CHANGE:

Effective January 1, 2006 our late fee for bills not paid by due date (the 25th of each month) will change from \$.50 to \$1.00.

*office. Our office then verifies all applications with the necessary government office: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Revenue. Once verified, we will provide a single telephone line service (one per household) to the customer at the program's monthly discounted rate.*