

SECUREIT RANKS HIGHEST IN SECURITY

Do you have the best protection for your computer? Honestly, how would you know, unless you researched **all** the products out there? Well we have the best and we have the information to prove it.

Our partner, **SecureIT Coverage**, was ranked the **highest in internet security by independent researchers AV Test.org and AV Comparatives.org, as outperforming leading security brands for protection from rising Internet security threats.**

These two Internet security benchmarking organizations analyze and rate Internet security platforms for performance and effectiveness. AVTest.org tested SecureIT 2011 against the WildList, a leading benchmark for the anti-virus industry that catalogs the growing malware threat. SecureIT 2011 achieved a perfect score by successfully detecting 100% of the infections in the WildList.

AVComparatives.org, an independent non-profit organization used as a benchmark by the security software industry, recently conducted testing on SecureIT 2011, including on demand detection against five different categories: Worms, Backdoors/Bots, Trojans, Other Malware/Viruses, and False Positives. SecureIT scored higher in these tests than some of the leading Internet security brands today, including McAfee Antivirus, Norton Antivirus, and Trend Micro Titanium AV+.

With this information, why not make the switch? Call or log onto our website for more information and pricing!



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2013

THE NEWEST IN SCAMS... SCAREWARE

We've all seen it, a message telling you to install and update security software for your computer the temptation to have a "free security scan" or a pop-up or email that claims "malicious software" has already been detected on your computer. The free scan can claim that you have a host of problems, and within seconds you get an urgent pop-up to buy security software to fix the immediate problem. After you spend \$40 to pay for the software, the problem seems immediately fixed and you should have peace of mind knowing that you purchased the security software.

But in reality this is not true, according to the Federal Trade Commission, scammers have found a new way to create realistic but phony "security alerts". Though the "alerts" look like they are being generated by your computer, they are actually created by a con artist and sent

through your internet browser. This is the newest phase of scamming and it is called "Scareware".

What to do... if faced with the warning signs of a Scareware scam, or suspect a problem—don't shut down your browser; don't click "No" or "Cancel" or even the "X" in the upper corner. Some Scareware is designed so that any of those buttons can activate the program. In Windows, press **Ctrl + Alt + Delete** to open your task master and click "**End Task**". If you use a Mac, press **Command + Option + Q + Esc** to "**Force Quit**".

For more information about this, or what to do, and how to report it, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov.



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...



As many of you may have seen, or read, Agate Mutual Telephone was featured in the NY Times and on 9 News in regards to the EAGLE-Net debacle (links to these stories are given below). We are concerned about the waste that has been put into the EAGLE-Net projects, and the duplication that they have made that could have been better served in other areas of the state. Agate was a part of this story because we are members of CTA, Colorado Telecommunications Association, and we are one of the center hubs that shows a great example of how a small school is over-served by having three separate fiber companies being able to supply it.

Fortunately, Congressman Corey Gardner, from Yuma, CO, is behind the little guys and helping to fight our fight with us. The Congressman, has been available to the CTA and many different aspects in the telecommunications uphill battle they are facing with the FCC and now with EAGLE-Net. He has been a huge advocate for the small independent telephone companies and rural Colorado. On the second coverage by 9 News, they show the Congressman hammering questions in the Congressional hearing with EAGLE-Net.

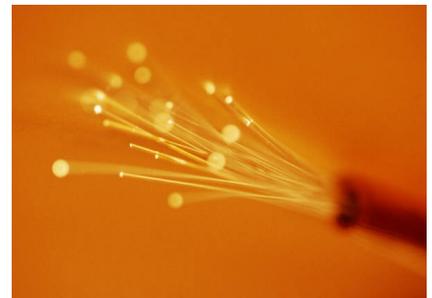
What does this mean to you? 1) We are committed to serving you the best we can, and want to continue to keep our service here at home. 2) The overspending by the government is not going unnoticed, and we are part of that fight to help serve in areas where funds should be used instead of wasting them in areas that don't need them. 3) Congressman Gardner understands what rural Colorado needs and is trying to fight to help keep little communities going. So we are not alone in this battle.

My office is always open to hear your concerns, or questions that you may have about our company or the FCC and EAGLE-Net battles we are facing. As always, I can be reached at our office at 719-764-2578 or by email at danh@amtca.net.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hollembeak

General Manager,
Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks



9 News Initial Story in EAGLE-Net- <http://www.9news.com/news/article/315618/339/Stimulus-money-going-to-waste-in-Colorado->

9 News 2nd Story on EAGLE-Net- <http://www.9news.com/news/investigative/319935/207/Congress-grills-feds-over-Colorado-stimulus-program->

NY Times Story- http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/12/technology/waste-is-seen-in-program-to-give-internet-access-to-rural-us.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS...

The Auto-Pay winners for this quarter are Bob and Carey Carson of Agate, Colorado. Bob is a Paramedic and works at the Lincoln Community Hospital, and Carey is a teacher at Deer Trail School. Bob and Carey have a daughter, Randi, and son Noah was born last week. They have been customers of Agate Mutual Telephone and since 2008. They won a free month of service because they signed up with Auto-Pay and were entered into a drawing for one free month of service. [Congratulations Carson Family!](#)

Auto-pay allows you to provide use with either a bank account, or credit card information, and you set the date that you want the payment to be made; you never have to worry about whether or not you paid this month's bill or not. Your bill will be processed and sent to you marked "PAID" as a receipt in the mail.



Carey, Randi, and Bob Carson

All of the information you provide us is secure and is never given out. If you need to change the date of payment, or the method, you just pick up the phone and call us, it's that simple.

Our final challenge will be this one... anyone who signs up for Auto-pay, by May 15th, 2013, will be entered into the drawing to receive a free month of service. Who will be the final winners?



MEET THE STAFF...



Our newest staff member is Judy Hollembeak. Judy worked here a few years back, and has come back to help us out at the office. Judy is the Customer Service Representative for Agate Mutual Telephone and Prairie Networks. Her main duties are customer service; including payments, billing, and answering questions; she also assists with many tasks, and helps keep us organized and efficient. She has been a tremendous help in getting the office organized and cleaned up.

Judy is married to Barry Hollembeak, has three children, Kristina, Daniel, and Kimberly; and also has twelve grandchildren. Judy is originally from Florida, but has lived in many different places, as she was a Preacher's kid. Judy met Barry in Canon City and they married and settled in Westminster. In 1998, they bought some property east of Agate, and built a house. Though the warm weather of Florida calls her name during the cold months, she likes living here.

The next time you call, or walk in, you may meet Judy. She is willing to help you with any of your needs and is a great addition to our team!





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Were On the Web!!

www.prairienetworks.net

Office Hours:

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Friday



SHORT SHORTS

How Old is Old?

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean, and Seamus, were stumbling home from the pub late one night and found themselves on the road which lead past the old graveyard.

“Come have a look over hear,” says Paddy, “It’s Michael O’Grady’s grave, God bless his soul. He lived to be the ripe old age of 87.”

“That’s nothing,” says Sean, “here’s one named Patrick O’Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died.”

Just then, Seamus yells out, “Good God, here’s a fella that got to be 145!”

“What was his name?” asks Paddy.

Seamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker and exclaims, “Miles, from Dublin.”



F U N F A C T S

Did you know...

- Only 2% of the world’s population has green eyes.
- There are more mobile phones in Ireland than there are people.
- The Titanic, the Unsinkable ship, was made in Ireland.
- Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle, for its lush greenery.
- Gaelic is the most commonly spoken language in Ireland, next to Irish and English..



Do you have something you want to put in our newsletter? Contact us.