

DO YOU HAVE A BACKUP?

Recently I was working here at the office and I found that I had Trojan virus hit my computer and a lot of my files were corrupted. I of course said a few choice words, panicked, and then called SecureIT and asked for their assistance. The virus I had was so new that most anti-virus software would not have caught it.

This didn't exactly leave me with a warm and fuzzy feeling, however what did make my day was the fact that I had backed up all my files onto my FileHopper Plus and had set a scheduled backup so that every few days any files that had changed would be automatically backed up into FileHopper. I was fortunate that all I had to do to get access back to all my files that were corrupted was click a button, instead of recreating all of them all over.

After this happened to me, I added the Advantage plan to all my personal computers as well, which already had SecureIT Plus on them, but now have the added support of File Hopper Plus, and Password Genie to allow me the access to back up my personal computer and files and not have to worry about a similar thing happening at home.

Do you have a back up plan? FileHopper Plus is available with the Advantage Plan at \$5.95/ month or a-la-carte ranging from \$2.95—\$14.95/ month for 5GB—250GB of storage. If you pay for an annual subscription we only charge you for 11 months! So give us a call—and help protect your files.



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PRAIRIE REALTY

On March 1st, Prairie Networks, LLC's newest subsidiary Prairie Realty, LLC will open it's doors to the Denver Metro and Eastern Plains of Colorado. Prairie Networks and Broker/ Realtor Kristina Nowak teamed up and have put together a great team of realtors to now service the area. The home office will be out of the Agate office, though realtors cover the Denver Metro area to the Eastern Plains.

Why choose Prairie Realty? Our agents don't just work here, they have been long time residents to the area. They understand the culture and needs of rural living.

Kristina is a proud member of the Colorado Board of Realtors, the National Association of Realtors, and the Elbert / Douglas Area Board of Realtors.

We'd like to welcome Kristina and her staff to our company, and provide you with her contact information. Any needs you may have, would be our pleasure.



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Broker

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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...



Here it is, almost springtime, and it seems like the wind is already giving us a run for our money!

I have been busy planning the second phase of construction to upgrade the fiber we have in our territories. As a recap, in late 2012 we started an 11 mile stretch of County Rd 153, and finished it in early 2013. This spring we will be adding 3 miles of fiber to County Rd 178. The fiber that we will be installing will allow our customers on that stretch of road the capability to get faster speeds, and better service. We are slated to start construction in April of 2014. We will be doing the majority of this work in-house as to save our customers money and time.

We are also learning what is to come with the FCC's ever changing efforts to reform Broadband. We still are not allowed to offer DSL without a phone line, but it does seem that the FCC is starting to listen to the customer's requests, and are looking into the possibility of having stand-alone broadband capabilities.

We have also been notified by the FCC, that all the telephone companies rates will have to increase to meet the "standard" pricing required. In the past, independent phone companies could keep their charges to the customer low, because monies were recovered by other federal programs that allowed us to collect the difference from those programs. Since the reform in 2010, those programs have gone away, and all independent companies will have to meet a "threshold" in order to maintain their compensation now given to the companies. Though we are not sure the exact threshold the FCC is going to set, once announced all companies will have to start passing the cost onto the customers by June 1, 2014. Currently we are anticipating a \$3.16 increase to our phone line charge, bringing the amount from \$14.09 to \$17.25 per month, but that could be lowered if the FCC would make their decision known publicly. We anticipate to know this information by March 31st, and we will do our best to keep all of our customers informed.

Lastly, as a reminder, we try and provide new and current services to our customers. We are now able to sell electronics such as TV's, ROKU, Computers, etc. We have the ROKU set up in our office for demonstrations at anytime. The electronics can be purchased through us. Call or stop in and let us know what you are looking for and we will try and get you the best price we can. We also offer Web site design, InforArmor- identity theft protection, SecureIT Antivirus, FileHopper Plus, Password Genie, and many other items. We are always open to suggestions, and will help the best we can with any technical questions.

Don't forget, my door is always open, you can contact me at the office at 764-2578, or danh@amtca.net.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hollembeak

General Manager,
Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks



TAX TIME ... IDENTITY THEFT

Tax time can be stressful for most of us. There are more than 1500 tax scams and counting being sent out to hundreds of thousands of emails. The IRS says tax scams, especially through phishing emails are the majority of the biggest problems. Phishing has grown in occurrence and complexity, but in addition a down economy and tighter restrictions on credit have caused a general feeding-frenzy of identity theft.

How does this work? You may receive a phishing email that promises a refund you might or might not be due. It may say that you need to file an additional form— these emails usually lead you to a form or link that you're asked to fill out. When you fill out the information you are providing all the information needed to access your personal identity.

How to protect yourself? The IRS NEVER calls or email information. They do business the old fashioned way, by US Mail. When in doubt, you can contact the IRS at 800-829-1040, or forward emails to phishing@irs.gov. This is not to say that phone calls and mail can't contain scamming, but the IRS will not contact you via phone or email for any thing.

They also recommend: know what's required to be submitted to receive your refund— what forms you need to send in to get the correct refund. Beware of mail-based scams— when in doubt call the IRS. Know who your hiring to prepare your taxes— make sure you know they are legitimate, and protect your computer— and files with any personal information that they may contain.

Stay safe, and hopefully you will get the refund you were wanting!



NEED A WEBSITE?

Need a new or updated website? Need a better way to reach people, or get the word out? Need one place to go that has all the information?

We have the affordable, and easy way to get your needs met. We design websites, from scratch, update existing ones, and we can even host them, and help you obtain the domain name of your choice.

Our designer, Amy, has put together our two websites: www.amtca.net & www.prairienetworks.net, as well as Agate Fire Protection District's website at www.agatefire.org. We can do this with a budget in mind, we can maintain the website for you, or teach you how to do this yourself, and the best part is, the hard part is done for you.

Prices vary on the extent of what you want developed, and we are always up-front with you on the estimate of costs. But if you're looking for a local person with the knowledge and the creation to put this together for you, give us a call, and we can make it happen!

Take a look at the above listed websites, to see what yours could look like. Then contact us!





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Monday—Thursday

SHORT SHORTS

Clever Kids...



A police officer found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists.

One day, the officer is amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem.

A 10-year-old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said, "Radar Trap Ahead".

A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice: another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "TIPS" and a bucket at his feet full of change.



You're In Good Hands...

After his return from Rome, Will couldn't find his luggage in the airport baggage area. He went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that his bags hadn't shown up on the carousel.

She smiled, and said, "Don't worry because we are trained professionals and you're in good hands."



Then she asked Will, "Has your plane arrived yet?"

F U N F A C T S

Did you know...

- 11% of the world is left-handed.
- Maine is the only state that has borders with only one other state.
- Americans buy more than 700 million Marshmallow Peeps during the Easter Holiday— which makes it the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy.
- The largest taxi fleet in the world is found in Mexico City. The City boasts a fleet of over 60,000 taxis.



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