

The Connection

OCTOBER 2020



Enjoy a Frightfully Fun Halloween

The Halloween season offers many scary-good ways to have fun as a family. You can carve jack-o'-lanterns, turn your home into a haunted house, and put together unique costumes using thrift store finds and everyday materials.

Runestone Telecom hopes your Halloween preparations and the big day itself will create memories to cherish for years to come. Take lots of pictures to capture it all!

Sun Outages May Affect TV Picture

For a few minutes a day in early October, you may experience a fuzzy TV picture, sparkles, tiling, freeze frame, or total loss of channels. This occurs due to sun outages, when the orbital positions of the satellite and the sun are aligned.

Contact Us

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Runestone
Telecom Association

MAKE IT AN
AWESOME AUTUMN

WITH RUNESTONE TELECOM

Autumn is many people's favorite season. What's not to love about visiting the local pumpkin patch, going on a hay ride, and feeling a bit of chill in the air?

As your local communications provider, Runestone Telecom would love to make your autumn even more awesome. Granted, we don't offer pumpkin spice Internet, but we do offer awesome speeds up to 1 Gig, awesome prices to fit any budget, and awesome employees who are here to help.

**CALL 320-986-2013
FOR AN AWESOME INTERNET PLAN**

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Call for details.



October is Co-op Month

Happy Co-op Month from all of us at your local cooperative, Runestone Telecom! As a customer, you earn capital credits each year from the service(s) you subscribe to from us such as phone, internet and/or cable TV. Capital credits accumulate each year that you have active services from Runestone Telecom. Our Board of Directors meets annually to decide on paying out certain portions of capital credits to our customers. That means not only are you a customer at Runestone Telecom, you're also a cooperative member and part owner in the company. That's pretty awesome.

We thank you for choosing Runestone Telecom and extend our warmest welcome to our new members listed below. We look forward to serving you!

New Members

Barrett

Johnson, Linda J..... 320-528-3301

Cyrus

Stroughter, Johnny..... 320-795-2546

Elbow Lake

Cabrillo, Gail..... 218-685-4096

Pollock, Kristina 218-685-4199

Reque, Dawn..... 218-685-2104

Hoffman

Danielson,

Brandon & Stacey..... 320-986-3037

Frovorp, Katie..... 320-986-2562



Answers to Your Questions About Live TV Streaming

Live TV streaming services—such as AT&T TV NOW, fuboTV, Hulu Live TV, Philo, Sling TV, and YouTube TV—deliver prime-time network shows and sports over your internet connection. That's why they're often referred to as cable replacements.

If you're thinking about switching from cable TV to a live TV streaming service, you'll want to do your homework to select the service that will provide the channels you most want to watch. To help you get started, here are the answers to frequently asked questions:

What channels are available through live TV streaming services?

Each service offers a different number and variety of channels. To compare, you can visit thestreamable.com/channels or suppose.tv.

How much does a live TV streaming service cost?

The price varies from service to service, but most cost between \$55 and \$65 per month. This makes live TV services a less expensive alternative to cable.

Can I get a free trial for a live TV streaming service?

Yes, many of these services offer free trials. Check their websites for details on current offers.

After I subscribe, how many people in my family can watch a live TV streaming service at the same time?

Most services offer subscribers the ability to stream to two or three devices simultaneously.

Will I be locked in a contract?

No. Live TV streaming services are all month-to-month with no commitment. You can cancel at any time without penalty.

Which devices can I use to stream live TV?

Live TV streaming services work with smartphones, tablets, computers, and streaming devices like Roku, Fire TV, Chromecast, and Apple TV.

For the best experience while watching a live TV streaming service, we recommend an Internet speed of at least 10-15 Mbps. Call 320-986-2013 to ask about the speeds and prices of our current selection of Internet plans.



Many Factors Can Affect Your Internet Speed

If you've tested your Internet speed at www.speedtest.net or a similar site and it's not what you expected, your first thought might be to contact your Internet Service Provider. Keep in mind, however, that a number of things could be decreasing your Internet speed. They include:

Multiple Devices Connected Simultaneously

Does your household have multiple laptops, tablets, game consoles, and smartphones? This can reduce the overall internet speed each device receives, since when multiple devices are connected simultaneously to the same network, they must share the available bandwidth.



Bandwidth-Demanding Applications

Applications such as streaming movies and TV shows, playing online games, and video conferencing will consume more bandwidth than things like checking email, so they can reduce your overall internet speed.

Poor Computer Performance

The culprit for disappointing speeds could be your computer—such as an old and unstable operating system or insufficient memory. In addition, if your computer is infected with adware or spyware, you may experience diminished computer performance and a stream of pop-up ads. This will likely cause everything on your computer to work more slowly.

Insufficient Wireless Router

Wireless router specification is an important factor in your home's Internet performance. If an older router that does not support high speed is used, Internet speed will be correspondingly reduced. For example, if you are signed up for 40 Mbps service and your outdated wireless router only supports up to 10 Mbps, your Internet speed will only reach up to about 10 Mbps. Getting a new router is one of the best ways to make sure your network is as fast and reliable as possible. You can lease one from Runestone Telecom for only \$3.95 a month.

Interference in Your Home Network

Other wireless devices—such as older cordless phones, baby monitors, some security cameras, and microwaves—can cause interference in your home, weakening your wireless router's signal and affecting your internet speed.

Runestone Telecom can answer questions about home networks and help you get the Internet speed you need. Call us at 320-986-2013 to learn more.

Give a Shout Out to Your Favorite Local Businesses

Now more than ever, it's important to support the heart of our community—our local businesses. The pandemic has taken its toll, and many of these businesses are struggling to make a go of it. You can help by not only making purchases whenever possible, but also by sharing the love on social media. When you post about a local business on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, it can help that business spread the word to more people. A few words can make a huge difference!

Check Your Phone Book Listing

It's time to check how your listing appears in our phone book. We're working on updating listings for the upcoming 2021 Vikingland Regional Telephone Directory. Your 911 address (street address) is automatically listed, but you may also list a mailing address.

Take a careful look at your listing in the current phone book. If you'd like us to make any changes, complete this form and return it to Runestone Telecom.

Please list my name as:

This is my telephone number:

Add this mailing address to my listing:



Russ Froemming



Kent Hedstrom

Celebrating Work Anniversaries

This fall, we congratulate two incredible employees at Runestone Telecom who are reaching major milestones in their careers:

Russ Froemming

Network Operations Manager,
20 years of service

Kent Hedstrom

General Manager/CEO,
30 years of service.

We're lucky to have you at Runestone Telecom and appreciate the many contributions you make to our company.

FUSC Rate Change

The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) is scheduled to increase from 26.5% to 27.1% on October 1, 2020.

Life Can Be Easier Thanks to the Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a wide variety of physical objects connected to the internet, which enable us to either control or receive data about the "things" by using a smartphone or computer. Due to super-cheap computer chips and the availability of wireless networks, it's possible to make virtually any object into a part of the IoT. As a result, the numbers keep growing. In fact, by 2021 there may be 20 billion IoT devices in use on earth by around 7.62 billion humans.¹

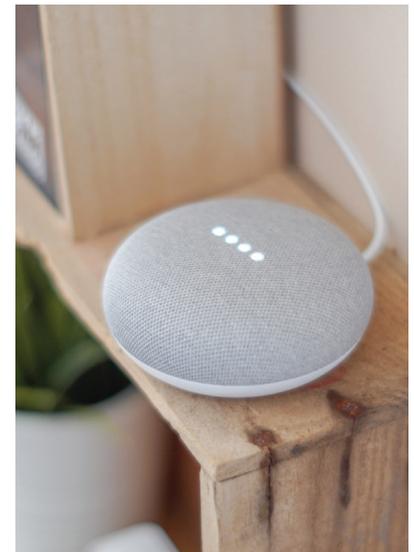
Examples of today's most popular IoT devices include:

- Smart appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers, coffee machines, and slow cookers)
- Smart security systems (smart cameras, smart locks, and smart doorbells)
- Smart home hubs and devices (to control lighting, heating and cooling, etc.)
- Smart voice assistants (like Amazon Alexa or Apple's Siri)
- Smart health devices (fitness trackers, sleep trackers, and smart scales)

Emerging consumer trends in IoT include smart active wear, smart athletic shoes, and connected vehicles that tell us everything from how close we are to the vehicles around us to the best route to take to avoid rush hour traffic.

IoT devices are becoming part of everyday life for many people, even those who don't consider themselves to be particularly techie. Why? They're user friendly and offer many benefits such as:

- Convenience
- Savings of time and money
- Access to information to help you live better
- Enhanced control over home management
- More peace of mind when you're away



Have you jumped on the IoT bandwagon yet? If not, a good place to start is by thinking about what's most important to you. If you want to save on your electric bill, get smart lights that turn off and thermostats that turn down when everyone leaves for the day. If you're concerned about security, check out smart locks, cameras, and floodlights.

Make sure your home's Internet service has sufficient speeds to accommodate the addition of IoT devices. For details, call 320-986-2013.

¹www.softwaretestinghelp.com/iot-devices