

March 2016

BERNARD TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS

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Sizing up the home wireless network

As technology changes and grows, one might overlook the most important device of the home network, the router. It seems that every new gadget we purchase can connect to our home wireless network. As excited as we get about our new gadgets and all they promise, we must understand that the functionality of the device is only as good as the foundation of our home network.

When wireless routers are purchased, they are often looked at as part of the home network, not the foundation. In truth, picking the size of your router is not much different than deciding what size foundation you will need when adding an addition to your home. You wouldn't want that foundation smaller than the structure it will be supporting so why have a router that cannot support all your devices.

Devices today are pushing yesterday's wireless technologies to new extremes making it harder for older technologies to keep up. In addition, what once started as one device per household has grown to an average of ten. Due to both these facts, you need to start asking yourself; what type of router do I have? How many devices do I truly have in my home? There have been five evolutions of wireless routers over the years. Wireless A and B were released in 1999 and wireless G and N were released in 2003 and 2009 respectively. The largest change in router technology came most recently with wireless AC. Wireless AC uses beam-forming technology and dual frequency bands, 5.8 Ghz and 2.4 Ghz, to maximize and utilize each connection to each device separately, thus drastically changing the capabilities in the home network. With this new technology, we see better signals to areas of the home that were once unreachable. This new technology also depends greatly on the model and manufacturer of the router. Where the rubber tends to meet the road with AC routers is cost vs. functionality. We suggest purchasing as much router as you can afford but once you get above \$200, the cost to functionality return is diminished.

As always, if you're looking to purchase a new router, we are happy to help you with your decision, we're just a simple phone call away.

Billing Note:

Bills are due on the 20th of each month unless that date falls on a weekend in which case they will be due on the following Monday. All payments received after the due date will NOT be reflected on your next months bill. Feel free to contact the office at any time to confirm your payment was received.

Bernard Telephone will be closing at 11:30 on March 25th in observance of Good Friday. Have a safe and Happy Easter!

SPRING

*begins on
March 20th*

Don't forget to



**1 hour on
March 13th**



**Happy St. Patrick's Day
on March 17th!**



on the 27th

Congratulations to this months winner,

Mike & Cindy Kobusch!

They will receive a \$10 credit on their next bill.

Winners are drawn randomly and everyone is eligible.



Account Name(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Bernard Telephone & Communications, in and effort to "Go Green", would like to offer you an opportunity to receive your monthly bill via email. If you are interested in this benefit, please fill out and return the above information with your monthly payment. Contact our office with any questions.

Privacy Policy:

Call Before You Dig!

We at Bernard Telephone & Communications pledge to protect your privacy and keep your trust. During the application process we collect **Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI)** and "Non-public Personal Information".

Under Federal law you have a right and Bernard Telephone & Communications has a duty to protect the confidentiality of your CPNI. If, at any time, you would like to update your CPNI information you may do so by filling out a new CPNI form. Contact our office and we will happily send one to you or you may stop in the office for a copy.

Planning on planting a tree, trenching in a field or digging a foundation, Iowa law requires everyone to locate underground utilities before digging. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

- * Call 1-800-292-898 , 811 or go online to www.iowaonecall.com to begin the process.
- * Wait 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays).
- * Begin your project.



My Device Protection Story:

Imagine my surprise when I opened my email one day to this question: Is your device in safe hands? Confused, I thought, "of course it's in safe hands, I'm holding it". Upon looking at the email sender, McAfee Mobile Security, I realized this was the program I use to protect my Kindle HD. Well, that unleashed a whole slew of feelings from confusion to fear. After all, I left my Kindle at home that morning. Who could possibly be in my house trying to use it?

When I opened the email, there was a message telling me that "CaptureCam" took a photo, then it gave me the time and date of the photo. Now, they had my attention. Seriously, they had a picture of the culprit who broke into my house and stole my Kindle! To say I was nervous was an understatement. I slowly scrolled down to the picture, anxiously anticipating who could possibly be in possession of my device, well, it was none other than....MY SISTER! What, my sister?! What was she doing with my Kindle? Below her, not so flattering picture, was a map that showed where my Kindle was when the picture was taken. Holy Cow, she was at my house!!

After a good laugh I called her and asked if she had tried using my Kindle while at my house. Hesitantly she said yes but stated she couldn't figure out my code to get in and no one in the house seemed to know what it was. She proceeded to tell me that after about 6 attempts it flashed an error on the screen so she just turned it off. She was shocked to find out that at that point the Kindle had snapped a picture of her and had sent me an email alert telling me someone was trying to use it. Fortunately, my situation turned out to be okay, even quite funny, but not everyone's does. At that moment I realized how important it is to have privacy protection programs on my devices. McAfee Mobile Security was free to install and gives me a renewed piece of mind.

By: Megan



Bernard Telephone & Communications
mobile site