

fall 2015

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LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Business Spotlight... Deer Ridge Apartments (IRET Properties)

It's no secret that Jamestown is growing quickly. IRET Properties also recognized this fact and wasted no time in building a 163-unit complex to accommodate the growing population. Early in the planning stages, DCT approached IRET Properties about the new Deer Ridge complex in hopes of providing a future-proof telecommunications solution for the apartments. The result was the first Fiber-to-the-Apartment deployment in the upper Midwestern United States; which means technology that is future-ready for the high-bandwidth requirements we are sure to face in the future.



DCT COE technicians worked in conjunction with our optical equipment vendor and solutions partner, Calix, to come up with the plan to bring fiber to each unit of the complex, which was not a simple undertaking. Timing is everything! The key for success with this unique project was mapping out a plan and installing when the building's framing was up, but before any finish work was started. Plans for the project not only required approval from IRET's top executives, but also its IT staff. IRET's IT team gladly signed off on the plan, and declared it the best communications solution in any apartment complex across IRET's multi-state holdings. After the plan was approved and ready to go, DCT technicians were able to complete wiring as construction was occurring. DCT will use the roadmap of this project for future MDUs (multi-dwelling unit), taking fiber all the way to the apartment.



The Deer Ridge complex is home to 163 apartment units including a variety of floor plans, large commons area, office, fitness center, and underground parking. Each apartment unit has a Calix 844G ONT (Optical Network Terminal), as well as four Gigabit/sec ports. The 844G gear will enable DCT staff to easily troubleshoot and manage services for residents. This equipment also creates an upgradeable pathway for future technology and speeds.

Steven Paul, IRET Regional Manager, said, "It will be great for these residents to be able to get the highest speeds in each apartment unit, as no other IRET apartment complex has technology like this." Steven also stated that he believes this will be a low-maintenance technology solution for Deer Ridge, given that the move in process has been seamless so far, which isn't always the case with new properties.

Deer Ridge apartments are equipped with a fiber connection to each unit, and the latest Calix 844G GigaCenters.

The first of three buildings in the complex opened in August, with the other two soon to follow. For more details and leasing information for Deer Ridge, visit www.iretproperties.com.





Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

Mid-August brought brisk morning air, to remind us fall has quickly approached. It is hard to believe we only have a couple more months to install new facilities in the ground before freeze-up. We have been fortunate that the construction season has gone well after a delayed start due to wet spring weather.

By the time you read this, our contractor should have all subscriber fiber in the ground for the area located South of Jamestown. As you may recall, we received a \$2.4 million RUS Community Connect Grant to deploy service to unserved customers in that area. Connections should begin sometime in October.

Earlier this year, we applied for two additional Community Connect Grants for the Pingree/Buchanan and Spiritwood rural area, each totalling \$3 million. We are disappointed to report that we were not successful in obtaining either of the grants. There were 68 applications nationwide and only five received funding. Unfortunately, only \$11 million was allocated to be spread across the entire nation, down from \$13 million the previous year. A majority of the successful applications were submitted to serve tribal lands and insular areas of Alaska. With increased awareness of the program and tribal/insular areas receiving preference points in the scoring process, it is difficult to out-score applications containing those demographics. We will continue to research funding alternatives that may become available in hopes that fiber may be brought to these two areas.

In the next few weeks, we will begin installing a 144-transport fiber from west of Medina to Spiritwood in order to upgrade one of our main routes between Bismarck and Fargo. Back in the late 1980's when we installed our first fiber optic cable; RUS would only finance 4-fiber cable to connect our network together. It is necessary to expand those facilities in order to accommodate the exponential increase in the amount of data carried on the network, as well as, the need to carry increased traffic between towers for wireless carriers.

We continue to change the Optical Network Terminals (ONT) located in Central Jamestown. These were the first installed in our network back in 2004 and 2005. We expect to finish the Central zones in October. We have scheduled the North and South areas of Jamestown to be replaced next summer. The new ONTs allow for significantly faster Internet speeds as well as a managed Wi-Fi solution. As a result, we have raised our speeds on an "as available" basis until all of the terminals have been changed out. If you do not subscribe to the new managed Wi-Fi service, you may want to consider purchasing a new router to accommodate the higher speeds.

On a regulatory note, there continues to be much discussion at the FCC regarding changes to the Universal Service Fund. There is significant pressure to transition the funding to support the wired connection to the premise, whether it is a broadband connection or a telephone access line. Chairman Wheeler has indicated they are working to release a plan by the end of the football season, with implementation later in 2016. Our national association, NTCA, continues to advocate our interests on your behalf. We will continue to update you throughout the end of the year.

Best wishes for a safe and pleasant fall,

Keith A. Larson





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provided to customer with manufacturer warranty, not warranted by DCT.



www.daktel.com
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652.3184 Carrington

What's New With DCTV...

Music Choice is Now on DCTV Everywhere!

Listen to your favorite Music Choice stations – commercial free – online and on-the-go with the Music Choice mobile app! Discover all the new hits or enjoy those oldie-but-goodies! musicchoice.com



BEK TV Updates

BEK Communications recently announced that the regular weekly schedule of livestock sales can be viewed LIVE on the BEKTV Livestock Channel, DCTV channel 24. BEK Extra, DCTV channel 26, will carry Church Services, Polka Time Again, and more!

Tuesdays - Jamestown Livestock Auction
Thursdays - Napoleon Livestock Auction
Fridays - Herreid Livestock Auction

Get Your [LOCAL] Game On

We are ramping up our local line-up to bring you more local content than ever! University of Jamestown's UJTV 16 is back in session this Fall with all new content – stay tuned to see what's happening at the UJ campus!



We are excited to announce an additional channel to the DCTV local channel line-up this Fall: Cardinal TV-80! Cardinal TV will be produced by Carrington High School students for your entertainment!

Managed Wi-Fi

Managed Wi-Fi is a monthly service that lets us, your service provider, easily manage your wireless Internet service in the cloud – safely and securely.

Eliminate:

- Cost of wireless router
- Dealing with router-issues
- Needing to replace/upgrade equipment as usage and technology changes



ADVANTAGES OF MANAGED WI-FI

As technology advances and available bandwidth continues to increase, your equipment needs to be able to handle these changes. Along with speed increases, your equipment also needs to be able to support the newer technology in wireless devices, which older routers often do not support. With Managed Wi-Fi, we provide the equipment you need, so you don't have to worry if your router is outdated or the wrong model.

Another benefit of Managed Wi-Fi is the ability for us to troubleshoot remotely, saving us both time and money! We can eliminate many service calls this way, and can possibly even prevent future issues from happening when we can see how your network is operating.

**Managed Wi-Fi is currently not available in all areas, depending on equipment and location. Please call our office for more information regarding availability.*

WIRELESS ROUTERS

As technology and customer usage behaviors change, wireless routers become outdated and may not support higher Internet speeds and even certain devices. We recommend replacing routers every two years to ensure that yours is compatible with the ever-changing technology. If you have questions about your router or wireless Internet connection, please call us at 652.3184 or 952.1000 and ask for the Internet Helpdesk!

COMING THIS FALL TO YOUR LOCAL DCTV LINE-UP!



Channel 80 Produced by Carrington High School

announcements | sports | concerts | special events | athletic calendars | lunch menu
homecoming highlights | and more!



Straight from the Helpdesk...

Maximizing Your Wi-Fi

High-speed broadband is great, grand, and wonderful... if you use it right.

How you manage your Internet connection and all your devices determines the speed and quality that you actually get out of your Wi-Fi. Most of the time, the culprit for slow connection speeds is that little box called a wireless router. You can have the fastest Internet speed in the world, but if your router isn't functioning properly...you got nothin' (to put it frankly).

We have some pointers for you, if you think your Wi-Fi isn't performing up to par...and if these don't do the trick, give us a call at the DCT Internet Helpdesk. That's what we're here for!

MAKE SURE YOUR ROUTER IS LOCATED AS CENTRALLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN YOUR HOME

If your wireless router is located at one end of the house and you are trying to use wireless devices in a room at the other end, your signal won't be as strong. The closer your device is to the router, the stronger the signal will be!



THE NUMBER OF USERS AND DEVICES AFFECTS THE SPEED OF INTERNET YOU RECEIVE

Let's do a quick device count: Smart TV, Xbox, Wireless printer, 4 Tablets, 4 SmartPhones, computer, Blu-Ray



player...we could go on for days. The number of wireless devices in each home is rapidly increasing, which means you need more speed to accommodate those devices! The number of simultaneous users also affects your connection, so if you have 4 people in the house on different devices at the same time every night and your Internet connection can't keep up...you may need a speed bump!

TAKE THE SPEED TEST!

If you think your connection is slower than it's supposed to be with the number of devices you have, you can easily do our speed test online to see at what speed you are connecting. You



will also be able to discover if it is your actual Internet connection that is faulty, or if it is a router-issue. Visit daktel.com/tools/speed-test to begin the test.

First, run the test wirelessly to check your wireless Internet connection. Then, take your ethernet cable and plug it directly into your computer or laptop to check the Internet connection coming into your home.

If your wireless connection is slower than the connection coming into your home, you may have router issues. First things first – try re-booting your router as that often fixes the problem. Give us a call at the Helpdesk and we can help!



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www.daktel.com/smartsolutions

We Rocked the Block!

We had a blast at the Community Block Party again this year welcoming the college students back to school! We had some fun with selfie sticks, and also held a drawing for a \$100 VISA gift card and a Selfie Stick from the photos posted to Facebook or Twitter. The lucky winner was Sarah Telehey, student at University of Jamestown.



Thanks to All Who Attended the Annual Meeting

Once again the Foster County Fairgrounds was full of buzz on June 10th for the Dakota Central Telecommunications' 64th Annual Meeting. Registration was followed by the business meeting, concluding with a meal and good company!

Pastor Russ Christianson gave the invocation and General Manager Keith Larson welcomed everyone in attendance. Keith Larson and Board President Doug Wede gave brief presentations on various topics concerning the telecom industry at this time. Financial statements were presented by CFO Holly Utke, reporting that the company had another financially sound year. During the business meeting, the following were re-elected to the DCT Board of Directors: Kathleen Davis, Grace City Exchange; Craig Hoffmann, Medina Exchange; and Rodney Suko, Windsor Exchange.

Concluding the meeting, door prizes were given out. This year, rather than handing out various gift items, winners received cash prizes in the form of a \$50 bill. The grand prize for the kids' drawing was a brand spankin' new bike, won by Tyson Scanson.

Following the meeting, dinner was served by DCT employees and the Schoolhouse Café from Grace City. Over 300 people enjoyed shredded beef sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, pickles, and bars.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended and assisted with the Annual Meeting. A special thanks goes out to the CHS FBLA members, Pastor Russ Christianson, the Schoolhouse Café, as well as all of the DCT employees.



Tyson Scanson and his shiny new bike!



Kids' Night at Jamestown Speedway

Saturday, June 20th marked the 15th year that Dakota Central has hosted a night of racing at the Jamestown Speedway. DCT employees handed out prizes at the door and trophies to the race winners, as well as to kids whose names were drawn. Kids' Night was also a part of the fun – on this particular night, race fans under 12 years old had the opportunity to ride a lap around the track with their favorite driver and grab an armful of candy on the way out! We always enjoy being a part of the races each year!



Kids got a chance to ride in the race cars – the highlight of the night!



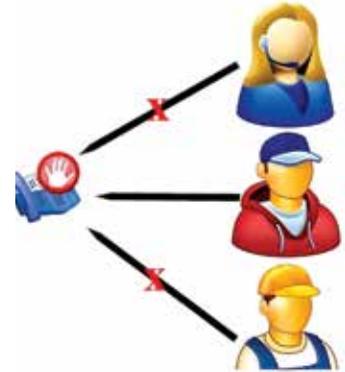
Feature winner Scott Bintz receives his trophy from DCT employee, Rod Walters.

New Telephone Feature: Call Screening

- Defeats RoboCalls
- Remembers familiar long distance numbers
- Phone and Web Portal Administration
- Includes Do Not Disturb Service
- Blocked and Allowed numbers can be added for subscribers

HOW DOES IT WORK?

DCT's new Call Screening feature allows local wireline and wireless calls to complete without intercepting them. When telemarketers do call, they hear the announcement "The number you have reached does not accept calls from Telemarketers. If you are a Telemarketer, please add this number to your Do Not Call list and hang up now. Otherwise, please press '1' or stay on the line."



Regular long distance callers will hear the announcement the first time they call, and then the service 'learns' that they are an accepted caller.

Call our friendly customer service representatives at 652.3184 or 952.1000 to find out more about Call Screening!

Copyright Infringement

We are all familiar with copyright laws, but what exactly is considered a copyright infringement?

The most common infringement is the illegal file-sharing of copyrighted materials, such as music and videos. Copyright infringement also includes illegally downloading movies, games, or music. It happens more than you think!

In order to reduce the number of infringements, consumers need to be educated on what is unacceptable. In the near future, DCT customers will be receiving Copyright Infringement Notifications when an incident occurs, and users will be required to acknowledge the notification in order to dismiss it. Details of the infringement will be provided as well, so as to educate users on what is considered copyrighted material. Recurring incidents may cause DCT to disconnect services.



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Increased Security for Credit Card Payments

Dakota Central is required to transition to an automated Pay-By-Phone payment system in order to be compliant with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard. These worldwide requirements are designed to help companies prevent credit card fraud through increased data controls. Moving to this system will ensure our continued ability to accept debit and credit card payments. Stay tuned for more information!

Win credit on your DCT bill!

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by **October 31, 2015**, to be eligible for the drawing.

**Congratulations to last issue's winner:
Sandra Kunz, Bowdon.**

NAME

PHONE #

The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

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