



## STORM SEASON IS COMING SOON!

Storm season will be here before we know it, bringing lightning and potential power outages that can wreak havoc on our electrical devices. Now is the time to get a GOOD surge protector (not just a basic power strip) and to make outlets near your electrical devices accessible so you can unplug them, if needed. Unplugging from the wall is the BEST way to prevent damage to your electronics from lightning and power surges.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Matt Nelson - I started in 1985 with WWCC as a System Tech with the outside plant. I perform home service installations and do a lot of preventative maintenance and repairs of our fiber optic and coax lines to make sure we provide a good signal for Internet, Cable TV, and Phone. In my free time, I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, canning, grilling, and spending time with family and friends. I am also on the Strum Village Board.



## FRS RURAL YOUTH APP CHALLENGE!

Develop a concept for a mobile app that addresses a problem or improves a process in your rural community or in rural America at large. Students enrolled in grades 7 - 12 are eligible; teams can consist of 1 to 5 students; at least one team member must be a member of a participating FRS cooperative (like TCC).

**You would win \$1,000 in Gift Cards and Codecademy scholarships!**

Visit **FRS.ORG** for more information and the submission application

**DEADLINE IS APRIL 20, 2018!! HURRY AND GET YOUR ENTRY SUBMITTED!**

## 2018 TCC Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 5th

Ss. Peter & Paul Parochial School  
Hwy 93, Independence

- ▶ Doors open at 5 pm
- ▶ Lunch served from 5 - 7 pm
- ▶ Meeting starts at 7 pm  
(no registration after meeting starts)



## SMARTPHONES -- WI-FI, CELLULAR, & DATA?

One topic we are asked about a lot is the relationship between Wi-Fi, Cellular, and Data. Basically, they deal with Internet connections through a phone or tablet and the amount of Internet you can use per month.

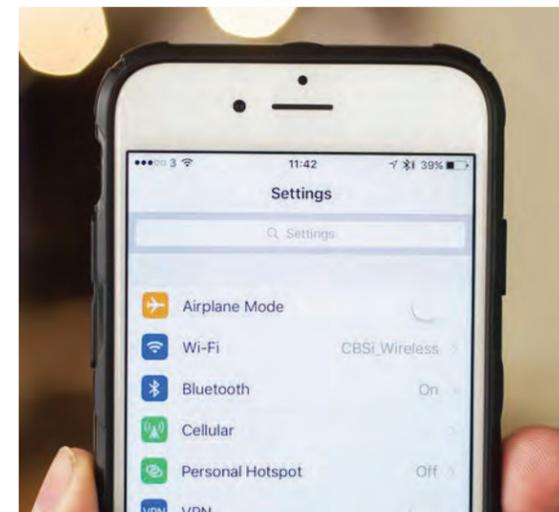
**Data** -- the amount of Internet you can use in a month over Cell Towers, based on your Cellular plan

**Cellular** -- using the Internet by connecting to Cell towers; counts against your Data

**Wi-Fi** -- Internet from a fixed router -- often in a home or business; does not count against your Data

You want to use "Wi-Fi" Internet whenever possible because it doesn't count against your Data. Connect to your home connection at home and when away from home, see if there is a Wi-Fi connection in places you go and connect to that. Swipe down from the top or up from the bottom or go into your main "Settings" and then "Wi-Fi" to view/connect to Cellular/Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi will take priority over Cellular so you don't have to turn the cellular connection "off" every time you use Wi-Fi -- just watch in case the Wi-Fi connection goes down and you switch to Cellular! Here are some tips for managing Cellular/Data usage:

- Control which app(s) can use Cellular Internet - Usually in your Cellular Data settings or in your App settings, you can enable/disable access to use Cellular Internet. This prevents unexpected data usage.
- Check your Data usage regularly by going into the Cellular settings on your phone or by using your Cell provider's system (e.g. Verizon customers can call #data and they'll get a text message with current data use).
- You can typically set up limits on your phone to stop your data usage or create text/email notices through your Cell provider's website when you get close to or reach your limit to help you prevent overage.



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHO RECENTLY CHOSE OR UPGRADED TCC SERVICES!

Arcadia Dental, Arcadia Fire Dept., At the Root Hair Salon, Balduzzi Ettrick Lumber, Bruce Valley Garage, Children's Palace, City of Independence, Everin Tax Service, Fairchild Barrel Inn, Falls Meat Service, Great River AG Service, Hixton Fire Dept., Independence Lutheran Church, Industrial Tool Crafters, Northern Business Development, Osseo Rural Fire Dept., Pammy's Patchwork Playhouse, Randy's Neighborhood Market, Riverstop, St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Todd's Recreational Repair, Trinity Lutheran Parish, and Total Building Center.



## TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

WWW.TCCPRO.NET 800.831.0610



Strum & Independence  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Galesville Location  
Wednesday Noon - 4 p.m.  
Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Strum Office  
417 5th Ave. N  
P.O. Box 578  
Strum, WI 54770  
715-695-2691

Independence Office  
23669 Washington St.  
Independence, WI 54747  
715-985-3101



TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP  
www.TCCPRO.net 800.831.0610



## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT INTERNET PRIVACY

While TCC does NOT collect or sell your browsing data, it is important for you to know that your browsing data can (legally) be collected and sold by websites and social media platforms you engage with (e.g. Facebook, searching, shopping).



### Here are some things to keep in mind about Internet Privacy:

(1) **Every website and app that you engage with (visit, post things to, search in, type things into) can collect, keep, and even use or sell that information.** When you go to a search page and type things like "Nike Running Shoes" or "Carnival Cruise", that information is being collected, stored, and shared with their affiliates. Websites you register with, store data on, or utilize services from may use any information you provide them. You may have seen advertisements on your Facebook page or on websites with advertising that match keywords you recently searched online. Most of this tracked information is just your wants/preferences like merchandise brands, TV shows you like, places you would like to visit, etc. and not personal identity information.

(2) **Your email address is in a spam list.** Unfortunately, that is a reality in today's Internet world. Even if you are extremely careful about who you give your address to and what emails you open, there are still ways your address gets onto spam lists. Anytime you offer your email address on a website form or as the login for an online service, you are giving your address away. Anybody you have ever sent email to or received email from could get a virus or malware on their computer, which could capture any addresses they've ever emailed with (including yours).

(3) **Consider it captured.** Try to have the mindset that anything you type anywhere online is going to be captured. This will help you re-think when, where, and what you type into websites, emails, etc. online. If you type your cellphone number into an online form, assume that somebody will capture it.

(4) **Everything is online.** So many companies, organizations, and entities put all their information online (including applications and primary means of correspondence), that we're somewhat forced to put ourselves into the electronic information space to do business with or interact with them.

(5) **Create an online-identity.** If possible, set up a secondary identity - or use alternate information - for yourself to use online so you aren't giving your vital/primary information away (as much). Examples include:

- Buy and use a "Pre-paid" Visa/Mastercard, Gift Cards, or set up a second bank account from your bank (that is not tied to your main account) and use one of them for online purchases. If there is a breach with the online retailer, your real/main account will not be at risk.
- Get a second email address (Gmail, etc.) to only use with websites and services that require an email address.
- Get a second phone (cheap, prepaid) if what you need to do online requires a phone number so you are not giving away your main phone number (that you've spent years safeguarding from telemarketers).
- Unless your real birthdate is required, add a day/month/year to your birthdate (or don't put one at all) so you're not giving out that personal info (like for Facebook, etc.).

(6) **Scrutinize everything.** Verify everything - really good offers, virus threats, IRS warnings, etc. Verify them by calling the actual organization (or visiting them in person) to see if it's legit. Fake notices are very convincing!

## FREE ANTI-VIRUS, CLOUD BACKUP, PASSWORD MGR

Did you know that TCC offers all Internet customers Free Anti-Virus, Free 50 GB of Cloud Backup, and a Free Password Manager? We do! It's called "Tech Home." You just have to contact us and request it and then download the programs! The Anti-Virus, called SecureIT, protects your computer from every kind of threat and includes 24/7 support and a guarantee! The Cloud Backup is a great way to store your important files so you don't lose them in case of loss/crash. And the Password Manager, called Password Genie, is a helpful program that makes managing all your passwords easy! It stores, types and updates passwords for you!

The RISK of viruses and data loss is greater than ever! With more of our personal business such as booking hotels, paying bills, checking balances, filling out forms, etc. being done online, criminals are spending more time and energy trying to capture our data!

So if you DON'T have an Anti-Virus program (or you aren't sure!) contact us to make sure you get protected BEFORE something happens. Call TCC at 1-800-831-0610 or go to [www.tcctechhome.com](http://www.tcctechhome.com).

## COMPREHENSIVE DEVICE PROTECTION

Internet Security     24/7/365 Support     Cloud Backup     Parental Controls     Password Management

**TCC**

Single layer protection for your computer and mobile devices is no longer good enough. You need comprehensive device protection. Tech Home includes class leading Internet security, encrypted cloud backup, password management and more so you can be sure your experience is uninterrupted.

**Anti-Virus · Cloud Backup · Password Manager**