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## Illegal File Sharing

*Copyright infringement notices on the rise*

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) monitor the Internet very aggressively, scanning continuously for traffic that contains copyrighted movies and music that has not been legally purchased.

One of the most common programs used to do this is BitTorrent, which allows users to download content and then share it with millions of other computers that have the same software installed. A recent survey shows that BitTorrent ranks in the top tier of all Internet traffic.

However, downloading and sharing copyrighted movies and music is considered copyright infringement, with the potential for large fines.

When the MPAA or RIAA detect illegal traffic, they can easily identify the IP addresses of the sending and receiving parties, the ISPs

who are hosting those addresses, the name of the movie or music that was downloaded, and the precise date and time of the violation.

They then send a notice to the hosting ISPs, insisting that they contact the subscribers at the identified IP addresses and advise them that they must immediately remove the illegal content and provide written acknowledgement that they have done so. ISPs who decline to cooperate in this procedure may themselves become liable for prosecution.

Over the past several years, OCS typically received notification like this a few times per year. But recently, that number has increased quite dramatically to several times per month.

In most cases, the subscribers we contact are unaware of the situation, and fairly often they discover it's their children who have been downloading the illegal content – which then gets redistributed automatically by the BitTorrent software.

The easiest way to avoid a problem like this is to simply uninstall BitTorrent. If you have questions or need help with this, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

**MORE THAN 997 MILLION VIRUSES, SPAM, AND PHISHING ATTEMPTS  
HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY THE OCS CENTRAL SYSTEM  
CALL US ABOUT OCS OFFICE SCAN!**

## Bandwidth Management Tips

Several of our newsletters have discussed how you can reduce your bandwidth usage, which helps keep our network fast and reliable while keeping costs down for you. Here's a recap of two of the biggest "bandwidth hogs" we've seen recently, and what you can do about them.

**1. Netflix.** Open *My Account*, then in the *Profile* section click on *Playback Settings*. At the top you'll see 4 options under "Data Usage" ... the default for new Netflix users is



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### THE NATIONWIDE OCS REFERRAL PROGRAM

If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! **Our subscribers have earned \$70,783 so far** – click *Referrals* on our home page for details! Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to apply for service online.



**Need qualified computer  
or network maintenance?  
Give us a call!**

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# Bandwidth Management Tips

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preset to *High* ... change this to *Low* and your bandwidth usage will be reduced by a staggering 90% when watching movies. You'll probably notice no change in quality, and your buffering delays will largely disappear.

**2. Smart TVs.** If you've bought a new TV lately, it can probably connect to the Internet. What we're finding is that the default settings for these TVs allow them to download popular movies continuously, even when you're not watching, so you'll always have several selections available for instant viewing whenever you want. However, this gobbles up tremendous bandwidth ... where to turn this feature off varies, depending on the make and model.

**The Internet was never intended** to replace movie theaters and television, but that genie is out of the bottle and it's what people now want and expect. So, much like Edison, PG&E or your water utility company, we keep looking for ways to inform our subscribers about how they can economize.

# Windows XP End of Support

In our September 2013 newsletter, we described how Microsoft had announced the end of support for Windows XP in Spring 2014. The official date is now set for April 8.

This means the patches distributed each month through Windows Update will stop, including security fixes that help protect your computer against malicious online attacks.



Simply upgrading your computer from XP to the latest Windows 8.1 may not be such a good idea. That process is not actually simple at all, and a computer that's old enough to be running XP is probably too old to take advantage of many newer OS features.

So if you haven't been thinking about a new computer, it might be time to start doing so. Windows 8.1 is by far the most secure version of Windows yet created ... in comparison, Windows XP is 20 times more at risk of infection by malicious software.

## Fan Mail



*"Many friends encouraged me to switch to OCS. Your service and customer support are 1000% better than my previous local ISP ... you actually want to help your customers!" -JH*

## Tired of satellite or Clearwire? You're not alone ...

many of our new OCS accounts are customers switching from satellite, DSL, Clear[wire] and others. Tell your friends and receive a referral credit for up to a month's free service.

## OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds (Mbps)		Monthly Usage	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		
	Max	Typical			Installation	Equipment Deposit	Monthly Service
	<i>(Note 1)</i>		<i>(Note 2)</i>		<i>(Note 3)</i>		
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<i>All Plans</i>						
<b>Basic</b>	1.5M	1M	20GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
<b>Premium</b>	3M	2M	30GB	5			79.95
<b>BUSINESS</b>							
<b>Business</b>	3.5M	2.5M	40GB	10			129.95
<b>Professional</b>	4.5M	3.5M	50GB	25			159.95
<b>Corporate</b>	6M	4.5M	60GB	30			199.95
<b>Enterprise</b>	8M	6.5M	80GB	40			249.95
<b>MOUNTAINS</b>							
<b>Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek</b>	<i>(Note 4)</i>						
<b>Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson</b>	750K	375K	8GB	5			69.95

(1) Residential and Mountain Area plans are asymmetrical, with uploads at 50% of download speeds. All Business plans are symmetrical.  
 (2) Usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.  
 (3) Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon service termination after one year. No contracts are required.  
 (4) Add \$10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.

## I Didn't Know That!

- OCS provides "A-to-Z" technology services
- Complete computer service and repair shop
- Variety of Internet access plans and packages
- Professional website development and hosting
- Programming and custom development
- eCommerce solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
- Secure branch office inter-networking
- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services

To set Account Preferences or make Payments Online, click **UserAdmin** on our website

On the road? Call our toll-free support at 888-OACYSKOM