



COMPUTER SECURITY IT'S A NATIONAL CONCERN

WOULD YOU LET THE DOORS AND WINDOWS TO YOUR HOME UNLOCKED, KNOWING THAT ANYONE COULD ENTER WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE? PROBABLY NOT – AFTER ALL, YOUR HOME CONTAINS SOME OF YOUR MOST PERSONAL AND IMPORTANT BELONGINGS.

The same is true of your computer. For many of us, it contains our social security number, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, personal e-mails, and a wealth of other private information.

Although there is no foolproof way to protect your computer from cyber criminals, you can drastically reduce your chances of becoming a victim by limiting access into your computer. In their June 2007 Consumer Alert, titled "Botnets and Hacker and Spam (Oh, My!)," the Federal Bureau of Investigation recommended taking the following precautions:

- > **USE ANTI-VIRUS AND ANTI-SPYWARE SOFTWARE AND KEEP IT UP TO DATE.** You can download this software from software companies or buy it in retail stores. Look for anti-virus and anti-spyware software that removes or quarantines viruses and that updates automatically on a daily basis.
- > **SET YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE TO DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL SECURITY PATCHES AUTOMATICALLY.** Operating system companies issue security patches for flaws that they find in their systems.
- > **BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT OPENING ANY ATTACHMENTS OR DOWNLOADING FILES FROM E-MAILS YOU RECEIVE.** Don't open an email attachment — even if it looks like it's from a friend or coworker — unless you are expecting it or know what it contains. If you send an email with an attached file, include a text message explaining what it is.
- > **USE A FIREWALL TO PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER FROM HACKING ATTACKS WHILE IT IS CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET.** A firewall is software or hardware designed to block hackers from accessing your computer. A firewall is different from anti-virus protection: while anti-virus software scans incoming communications and files for troublesome viruses, a properly configured firewall helps make you invisible on the Internet and blocks all incoming communications from unauthorized sources. If you have a broadband connection, it's especially important to run a firewall because

the connection is always open. Most common operating system software (including Windows XP and Vista) comes with a built-in firewall, but you may have to enable it.

- > **DISCONNECT FROM THE INTERNET WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM YOUR COMPUTER.** While anti-virus and anti-spyware software, along with a firewall, are critical protections when you're connected to the Web, they're not foolproof. Hackers just can't get into your computer when it's disconnected from the Internet.
- > **DOWNLOAD FREE SOFTWARE ONLY FROM SITES YOU KNOW AND TRUST.** It can be appealing to download free software like games, file-sharing programs, customized toolbars, and the like. However, remember that many free software applications contain other software, including spyware.
- > **CHECK YOUR "SENT ITEMS" FILE OR "OUTGOING" MAILBOX FOR MESSAGES YOU DID NOT INTEND TO SEND.** If you do find unknown messages in your out box, it's a sign that your computer may be infected with spyware, and may be part of a botnet. This isn't foolproof: many spammers have learned to hide their unauthorized access.
- > **TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR COMPUTER IS INFECTED.** If your computer has been hacked or infected by a virus, disconnect from the Internet right away. Then scan your entire computer with fully updated anti-virus and anti-spyware software. Report unauthorized accesses to your Internet Service Provider. If you suspect that any of your passwords have been compromised, call that company immediately to change your password.

If all of this seems a bit overwhelming, you are not alone. PenTeleData has compiled some resources online at www.ptd.net/pcsecuritytips. In addition, their Computer Patrol offers professional in-home services, including virus and spyware removal and protection. **For more about Computer Patrol, visit www.ptdpatrol.com or call 877-610-9090.**

Phone Numbers

Customer Service
610-826-6650

Business Office
610-826-2115

Repair Service
610-826-3444

Gilbert Office
610-826-9321

*Palmerton Telephone
Company continues
to engineer and
advance technology
for tomorrow while
providing reliability
and quality service
that Pennsylvanians
count on today.*

SERVING THIS AREA SINCE 1900

465 Delaware Avenue • Palmerton, PA 18071 • www.ptelco.com

From the Manager's Desk...

Do you know that
Palmerston Telephone
has been serving the
area since 1900?

MAINTENANCE

Machines, buildings, even personal relationships are subject to failure if not properly maintained. If you don't change the oil in your car's crankcase, you eventually end up with sludge that doesn't lubricate well and the engine wears out long before it's supposed to. Maintenance costs money, there is no denying that, and some businesses take the attitude that it's cheaper to replace a machine that fails prematurely than to spend the money on proper maintenance. Not so when people depend upon your business for vital communications. That's why we spend the money for maintenance.

Currently, we are in the midst of a major maintenance project. Palmerston Telephone Company owns nearly 4,100 poles. These come in all sizes, from little 25-footers to big 50-footers and some larger. The company's investment in poles in service totals \$1,412,000.00. These pine poles are exposed to the elements and about six feet of each of them is buried in the ground. They are treated with preservative, but like the food you put in the refrigerator, they are subject to eventual decay. That's where maintenance comes in. Every ten years or so, we bring in a contractor who inspects and treats the poles in our plant with additional preservative, thus lengthening their usable life. Another part of preventative maintenance is identifying things that are near the point of failure and replacing them before they fail. In the case of poles, this avoids having a pole fall down unexpectedly and interrupting service or worse yet, injuring someone or damaging property.

Over the next two years, Palmerston Telephone will spend \$242,000.00 to have all of our poles inspected and treated. It seems like a lot of money, but averaged over ten years, it comes out to about 1.7% of our investment in the poles. Since this program extends the usable life of our poles by many years and allows us to replace dangerous poles before they cause trouble, we consider it money well spent.

Sincerely,

Tom Lager

General Manager
Palmerston Telephone Company

Pumpkin Gingerbread

Ingredients:

- > 3 cups sugar
- > 1 cup vegetable oil
- > 4 eggs
- > 2/3 cup water
- > 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- > 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- > 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- > 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- > 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- > 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- > 2 teaspoons baking soda
- > 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- > 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease two 9x5 inch loaf pans.
2. In a large mixing, combine sugar, oil and eggs; beat until smooth. Add water and beat until well blended. Stir in pumpkin, ginger, allspice and cinnamon.
3. In medium bowl, combine flour, soda, salt, and baking powder. Add dry ingredients to pumpkin mixture and blend just until all ingredients are mixed. Divide batter between prepared pans.
4. Bake in preheated oven until toothpick comes out clean, about 1 hour.

Recipe November 09

HOW DOES THE PHONE WORK WHEN THE POWER IS OUT?

WHETHER IT'S CAUSED BY A WINTER STORM OR A CAR ACCIDENT DOWN THE ROAD, IT'S TOUGH WHEN THE ELECTRICITY GOES OUT. WHEN OUR LIVES ARE DISRUPTED BY A POWER OUTAGE, WE WANT TO CALL OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THAT CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND ACCESS TO 911 ARE IMPORTANT.

Fortunately, as a customer of Palmerton Telephone, your landline phone service does not require electricity to your home. We work hard to make sure that as long as you have one wired (not cordless) phone, you can make or receive calls – without worrying about running out of battery life. We have plans in place for outages, including batteries, standby generators and mobile units. Because of this, the power for most standard telephones is supplied over your telephone line. If you rely exclusively on a cordless phone, keep a wired phone handy for emergencies. That way, if the power does go out, you can simply switch the jack from one phone to the other. If you need a wired phone, consider visiting our sister company, the Pencor Super Store, located at 656 Delaware Avenue in Palmerton.

You can take other steps to prepare for a power outage, including:

- > To help preserve your food, keep a cooler readily accessible. Surrounding your food with ice in the cooler or the refrigerator will help keep it colder for a longer period of time.
- > Assemble an emergency preparedness kit that includes water (one gallon per person, per day), non-perishable food, a flashlight, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, medications, copies of personal documents, family and emergency contact information, extra cash and personal hygiene products.
- > In an extended outage, turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment. Leave one light turned on so that you will know when the power is restored.
- > Be cautious about carbon monoxide. Never use a generator, grill or camp stove inside a home, garage, basement crawlspace or partially enclosed area.



More detailed instructions are available from the American Red Cross at www.RedCross.org.

Senate Bill would give the United States President **CONTROL OF THE INTERNET**

Our country's security is a hot topic these days. Since the attacks on September 11th, there have been many discussions about the fine line between the right to privacy and protecting our country.

Internet companies and civil liberties groups showed concern after a United States Senate bill proposed giving the White House the power to disconnect private-sector computers from the Internet. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D) from West Virginia, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, introduced a new bill with this intent. The 55 page draft of S.773: Cybersecurity Act of 2009 would permit the President to seize temporary control of private-sector networks during a cyberspace emergency. The bill would also enact a requirement that certain computer systems and networks be managed only by people who have received certification by a federal program designed to train "cybersecurity professionals."

The goal of the Cybersecurity Act of 2009 is to ensure continued free flow of commerce within the United States, while protecting the country's critical infrastructure, including water, electricity, banking, traffic lights and electronic health records.

The President of the United States has always held the constitutional authority and duty to protect the United States and respond to any emergency that threatens the security and safety of the nation. The Cybersecurity Act of 2009 clarifies that authority; however, since many civil liberties groups are concerned about the proposed shift of power from private users and companies to the federal government, it is likely to undergo many changes before being passed into law.

*Do you know that
Palmerton Telephone
copper wires, connected
end to end, circle the
earth 4 times at the
equator?*

Brain Teaser September 2009 Winner!

**Congratulations to
Leon Barlieb
of Kunkletown, Pa.
Leon was the
winner of a \$25 Gift
Card to Roadies
Restaurant and Bar
at Penn's Peak in Jim
Thorpe, Pa.**

*What English word
starting with 'B' has
three consecutive
double letters?*

*Answer: Bookkeeper
or Bookkeeping*

Fun Facts

Water has a greater molecular density in liquid form than as a solid. This is why ice floats.

In 1937 the emergency 999 telephone service was established in London. More than 13,000 genuine calls were made in the first month.

The running time of the average American TV sitcom, with its commercials removed, is 22 minutes.

The world's tallest mountains, the Himalayas, are also the fastest growing. Their growth — about half an inch a year — is caused by the pressure exerted by two of Earth's continental plates (the Eurasian plate and the Indo-Australian plate) pushing against one another.

The Campbell Soup Company uses more than 44 billion stars each year in its canned Chicken & Stars Soup. In three years, Campbell's produces more tiny pasta stars than there are in the Milky Way.

According to a survey, the most popular day for eating out in the United States is one's own birthday — 49 percent of American adults do. The worst holiday for eating out is Grandparents' Day, with less than 5 percent participating.

Elephant herds post their own sentries. When danger threatens, the sentry raises its trunk and though it may be as far as a half-mile away, the rest of the herd is instantly alerted. How this communication takes place is not understood.

The strongest bone in the body, the thigh bone, is hollow. Ounce for ounce, it has a greater pressure tolerance and bearing strength than a rod of equivalent size in cast steel.

Chase and Sanborn was the first coffee to be sold in sealed tin cans in the United States in 1879.

Caller ID

IT'S NOVEMBER, THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING WE HAVE. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MOST OF US COULD USE MORE OF, AND THAT'S TIME.

If you could use more time in your day, consider Caller ID. With the help of knowing who is calling, you can decide whether an incoming call is worth answering, or would be better taken later (or not at all). It's your personal time management solution, your chance to see who called while you were busy making dinner.

Not only can you see the telephone number of incoming calls, but you can also block your own information on outgoing calls. This valuable feature is beneficial for all households, but is especially important for occupations requiring calls made from home, where personal privacy is a safety concern, including doctors, lawyers, teachers, public officials and law enforcement. This service is available via two methods: per call blocking and line blocking. It is not necessary to order per-call blocking service, you simply enter *67 (or 1167 on a rotary phone) to block Caller ID information from being displayed for that call only. Line blocking service, ordered through our Customer Service, blocks your Caller ID information for all outgoing calls except those to 911 and to 800, 888, or 900 numbers.

This month, we are offering new Caller ID customers free installation, a free Caller ID Display Unit, and three free months of service with a one year agreement. To sign up, call us today at (610)826-6650. Offer ends 11/30/09.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT PALMERTON TELEPHONE?

DO YOU HAVE GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PALMERTON TELEPHONE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR COMPANY'S HISTORY, OR HOW TO ENABLE CALL FORWARDING? IN ADDITION TO A WEALTH OF RESOURCES ABOUT US AND OUR SERVICES, THE SITE CONTAINS LINKS TO WEATHER, AIRPORT DELAYS, SPORTING EVENTS, AND EVEN AN ONLINE VERSION OF OUR TELEPHONE BOOK. VISIT US ANYTIME, 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT WWW.PTELCO.COM.

Can you beat this **BRAIN TEASER?**

Palmerton Telephone is giving away a \$25 Gift Card to Roadies Restaurant and Bar at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, Pa.

To enter, e-mail the correct answer to ptelco@ptd.net or send a 3" x 5" index card to 465 Delaware Ave. Palmerton, PA 18071. Please include your name, address, daytime telephone number (to call only if you win), and the Brain Teaser answer. All entries must be received by **11/20/09**.

Good Luck!
Palmerton Telephone



Brain Teaser

Every year in November,
despite how many feathers I
have ruffled, I receive a
Presidential pardon.
What am I?