

CUSTOMER CONNECTION



What is Blockchain Technology and How is It Changing Digital Security?

Blockchain is one of the most popular buzzwords in technology right now. It was originally used with Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency that refers to a digital coin. It's rather complicated to understand and explain, but knowing how the Blockchain works with bitcoin will help us translate how the technology can be used in many other real-world scenarios.

The Blockchain behind bitcoin is a public ledger of every transaction that has taken place. It cannot be changed or tampered with retrospectively, so advocates of technology believe that it makes transactions secure and safer than current systems.

Bitcoin is not controlled by one central authority. While traditional currencies are issued by central banks, bitcoin is maintained by a network of people known as miners. These miners, sometimes known as "nodes", use computers to solve complex mathematical problems to complete transactions. Each transaction originates from a wallet with a private key, that is, a digital signature that provides proof that the transaction has come from the owner of the wallet. These transactions take place all over the world and are grouped together into a block, organized by strict cryptographic rules. The block is sent to the bitcoin network for validation. The winner receives an award in bitcoin. The validated block is then added to previous blocks, creating a blockchain. One of the advantages of blockchain is that it can't be tampered with. Each block that is added onto the chain carries a hard, cryptographic reference to the previous block.

One of the greatest aspects of blockchain technology is the ability to customize it. This means a blockchain can be completely open to the public or it can be totally private. Bitcoin is an example of an open-source public blockchain that allows anyone to join, whereas a private blockchain would be perfect for a business.

The security of blockchain technology shows promise for many industries to potentially reduce costs and make processes more efficient and secure. These may include banking, tracking products across a supply chain, payments, voting, music sharing, state identifications, and even the possibility to help tech companies manage the Internet of Things. While blockchain technology is being experimented with across a number of industries, the future is still uncertain and the power and limitations of this technology is still unclear. No one really knows if blockchain will become viable on a larger scale, but wouldn't it be helpful if it could keep passwords so that we only needed to remember one passcode for everything?

There is a host of legal, regulatory and technological concerns that need to be addressed before we start seeing widespread use, but there is a good chance that our digital lives may be using blockchain technology before we even realize it.

SERVING THIS AREA SINCE 1900

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

Customer Service: 610-826-6650
Business Office: 610-826-2115
Repair Service: 610-826-3444
Gilbert Office: 610-826-9321

From the Manager's Desk...

Dear Valued Customer,

The weather will soon be getting warmer, so it's a good time to get out and enjoy all that our community has to offer. Our newly redesigned website can help. Be sure to visit the Community Events Calendar at www.ptelco.com to see what's happening to benefit the non-profit groups in our area. This page also provides a link to submit your non-profit group's upcoming event dates. In addition, our site contains a wealth of other information, including current and past issues of our newsletter, directory book listings, money saving promotions, detailed product information and much more.

Thank you for choosing Palmerton Telephone Company. As always, if you have questions about your telephone services, you are welcome to call our Business Office at 610-826-6650 or stop in for assistance.

Best Regards,

Tim Hausman

General Manager,
Palmerton Telephone

Our Website has a New Look!

It was time! Our website, www.ptelco.com, has a new look. This site is designed to help YOU, our customer. It has details about our services, a list of standard and optional calling features, information about Palmerton Telephone DSL, directory listings, a detailed explanation of your rights and responsibilities as a telephone customer, our customer newsletters, information about Easy Pay, and a community events calendar.

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

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

NOTICE:

Palmerton Telephone Company charges a fee of \$20.00 for returned checks.

MARCH 2019 RECIPE

New England Clam Chowder

Ingredients:

- > 3 (6.5 ounce) cans minced clams
- > 1 cup minced onion
- > 1 cup diced celery
- > 2 cups cubed potatoes
- > 1 cup diced carrots
- > 3/4 cup butter
- > 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- > 1 quart half-and-half cream
- > 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- > 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Drain juice from clams into a large skillet over the onions, celery, potatoes and carrots. Add water to cover, and cook over medium heat until tender.

Meanwhile, in a large, heavy saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth. Whisk in cream and stir constantly until thick and smooth. Stir in vegetables and clam juice. Heat through, but do not boil.

Stir in clams just before serving. If they cook too much they get tough. When clams are heated through, stir in vinegar, and season with salt and pepper.

Featured Feature 811 - Call Before You Dig

Call 811 Before You Dig!

If you are planning any home improvements this spring, even a project as small as planting a tree, don't forget to call 811 before you dig. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood or harm you and those around you, potentially resulting in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

When you dial 811, your call is forwarded to the One Call Center in your area for processing. Local One Call Center operators record the location of the dig and then notify the affected utility companies of your digging plans. Your utility companies then dispatch a professional locating crew to mark the approximate location of your lines within a few days. Knowing what's below will protect you, your family and your neighbors.

Here are some 811 tips, as provided by the Common Ground Alliance, to help with your home improvement projects:

- > Always call 811 before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- > Tell neighbors, co-workers, family and friends about 811 if they discuss their plans for an outdoor home improvement project with you.
- > Plan ahead –You should be sure to call 811 a few days in advance of your scheduled dig to allow time for the request to be processed. Once your lines are marked, you will know their approximate location and you can dig safely.
- > Avoid starting projects until you're sure all lines are marked. Confirm that all lines have been marked by contacting your local one-call center.
- > Choose another location on the property for a project if the original planned site is near utility line markings.
- > If another location is not viable, respect the marks and avoid using mechanized digging equipment near them.
- > If a contractor has been hired, confirm that a call to 811 has been made. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.

REMEMBER, KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.



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

Brain Teaser January 2019 Winner

Congratulations to **Louise Koons of Palmerton, Pa.** Louise was the winner of a \$25 Gift Card to Claude's Creamery in Palmerton, Pa.

Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

Answer: Nine—two parents, six sons, and one daughter

Don't Forget: We're Planning Our 2019 Telephone Directory!

We're working on the new directory, which will be distributed this summer, but the deadline for revisions in our telephone book listing is quickly approaching. **Please contact us by March 1, 2019 to make any name changes.** This includes residential customers who would like to make a name change, add a spouse's name or revise a listing type (published or unpublished).

March 2019 Product Feature

RoboBlock

Stop Robocalls with RoboBlock!

There's something most of us will agree upon: Robocalls are a nuisance. One type of call, a spoofed robocall, utilizes a fake Caller ID display to hide the caller's true identity. This trick, known as spoofing, helps robocallers get around the Do Not Call registry, which allows consumers to block calls from telemarketers. Scammers have also used spoofing to trick people into thinking a call is coming from the IRS, a bill collector, or other important matter. The FCC allows phone companies to block robocallers who use fake Caller ID numbers and authorizes upon the request of the subscriber. Let us help - RoboBlock is only \$1 per month!

Call us today to add this great feature to your telephone service.



Brain Teaser

Palmerton Telephone is giving away a \$25 Gift Card to Claude's Creamery in Palmerton, 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 3/20/19.

Good Luck! Palmerton Telephone

You can drop me from
the tallest building and
I'll be fine, but if you
drop me in water I die.
What am I?

FUN FACTS

Most humans (say 70 percent to 95 percent) are right-handed, a minority (say 5 percent to 30 percent) are left-handed, and an indeterminate number of people are probably best described as ambidextrous.

Dry ice is frozen carbon dioxide. A block of dry ice has a surface temperature of -109.3 degrees Fahrenheit (-78.5 degrees C). Dry ice also has the very nice feature of sublimation -- as it breaks down, it turns directly into carbon dioxide gas rather than a liquid.

Whether or not a bird flies south for the winter depends a lot on what food the species eats. During our winters, many food sources, such as flying insects and nectar, are not available. Species that depend on these food sources must fly south to survive.

The nervous system of the starfish is very simple...there is no brain and there are not even any ganglia to coordinate movement. The nervous system is characterized by a nerve ring that surrounds the mouth. A radial nerve branches off of the nerve ring and extends to each arm.

The human eye actually sees everything upside down. Light enters the eye through the cornea and is further refracted when it hits the lens. Here it is flipped upside down and projected onto the retina.

Foil made from a thin leaf of tin was commercially available before its aluminum counterpart. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, tin foil was in common use, and some people continue to refer to the new product by the name of the old one. Tin foil is stiffer than aluminum foil.