HAPPY NEW YEAR

CURRIER & IVES © 1876

OLSON
COMPUTER
SERVICES

NETWORKING THE
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1982

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

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OCS celebrates 30 years

Olson Computer Services was started in a spare bedroom office in early 1982, marking 2012 as our 30th year in continuous operation.

The personal computer industry in 1982 was barely in its infancy. The IBM-PC had just been introduced, and the DOS operating system was still a newcomer compared to the more established CP/M and others. A common joke was that the nice thing about standards was that there were so many of them.

Very few individuals could imagine what they might do with a computer. For those who did a lot of typing, WordStar was a popular word processing program that eliminated the need for whiteout and carbon paper. VisiCalc and SuperCalc could perform repeated calculations on rows and columns of figures, and dBase managed tables of related data but was complicated to use.

Those programs and the files they created were all stored on 5-1/4" floppy disks, which were a great improvement over larger formats and especially cassette tape cartridges. Something under 200K was the typical capacity of each floppy, and swapping them back and forth was a common practice.

> **It is really astonishing to think of how much has passed in such a short period of time**

In 1984 OCS incorporated and moved into our current office location on Porter Road. A primary business need had emerged in agricultural payroll and accounting, and that became the company's specialty. In 1985 we started exploring ways to connect machines together, but networking was still adventurous and very rudimentary.

By about 1987 the first graphical systems were becoming more common. The early Windows versions ran on the state-of-the-art IBM-AT and a great variety of clones, most with little more than 1MB of memory and a whopping 20MB hard drive. Apple's revolutionary "Lisa" had been replaced by the first Macintosh, but the widespread cloning of IBM's open design meant that far more software became available for Windows. In 1989 OCS began developing commercial software, and networking business computers had become common although still underpowered.

In the mid-1990s OCS began using the Internet internally for online research, via long-distance dialup to CompuServe. There were no local numbers for this service or for the emerging AOL,

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Bandwidth increased for mountain areas

Subscribers in our Alpine, Camp Nelson and Pierpoint areas may have noticed a recent 60 percent increase in their monthly bandwidth allocation, from 5GB to 8GB, which was made possible by upgrades to our transmission network in the area. Field work was completed in late October, and the increased bandwidth allowance went into effect during the Nov-Dec billing cycle.

This increase will likely be the most that can be squeezed out of the 900 MHz radios that currently serve our mountainous areas. Under FCC rules, that is the only frequency band currently available to wireless ISPs (WISPs) that is capable of penetrating trees and other obstacles, but narrow spectrum allowance and low power caps restrict the ability to support higher system throughput.

OCS celebrates 30 years
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so when in 1995 we had an opportunity to establish Porterville's first ISP we didn't hesitate, and we made local dialup numbers available for the first time.

In 1999 OCS introduced high-speed Internet service over a new wireless network, which has continued to grow and expand ever since. Fiber was added in 2001, VoIP service in 2006, and in 2008 we achieved CPUC "CLEC" status to provide equitable access to larger telco services.

On review of this brief stroll through OCS history, it is really astonishing to think of how much has passed in such a short period of time. Computers are now so common they're sold as commodity appliances, and every business and even most households have one or several of them. Everyone has a mobile device.

Most businesses now have a website that's reflected everywhere, on stationery and business cards, television and radio ads and on billboards and service vehicles. No one now needs to spell out the "http" or the forward slashes or even the ubiquitous "www" to know that "something-dot-com" is a web address … yet only a few years ago all of this was new and unknown.

What changes will we see in the next three decades?

WIRELESS SERVICE AREAS

- Porterville
- Springville
- Pleasant Valley
- River Island
- Globe Drive
- Strathmore
- Terra Bella
- Lindsay
- Exeter
- Badger Hill
- Visalia East
- Yokohl Valley
- Camp Nelson
- Success Valley
- Richgrove
- Delano East

Bandwidth increased for mountain areas
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A future possibility for increased service in these areas lies in the pending release of TV White Spaces (TVWS) for use by WISPs. These frequencies were used previously by over-the-air television VHF and UHF broadcasting, prior to the switch to digital in June 2009.

Under tentative FCC rules, the TVWS – aka "Super Wi-Fi" – will provide wider spectrum allowance and higher transmit power. Plus, the much longer wave lengths in these lower frequencies will allow improved obstacle penetration and more "bending" over uneven terrain.

As we announced in our December 2011 newsletter, OCS is participating in the FCC's experimental release phase of new TVWS equipment. We anticipate having our first units installed in the first quarter of 2012, most likely in the general Porterville area to begin with.

Fan Mail

During this holiday season, we'd like to thank our many loyal customers for your many years of support. We are always especially gratified by the many Christmas cards and thoughtful gifts we receive from you during this special time of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at OCS!

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

| Wireless Plan Types | Average Speeds | | | Monthly Usage [1] | Mailboxes | One-Time Fees | | Monthly Service [3] |
	Min	Typ	Max			Installation	Equipment Deposit [2]	
RESIDENTIAL						*All Plans*		
Basic	125K	500K	750K	12GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	20GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS								
Business	375K	1.5M	2M	30GB	10			129.95
Professional	500K	2M	3M	35GB	25			159.95
Corporate	750K	3M	4M	45GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	60GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS								
Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson	125K	375K	750K	*NEW!* 8GB	5			69.95

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
2. Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon termination of service after one year.
3. For areas served by Blue Ridge tower, add $10 monthly rural service fee.

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-OACYSCOM