

Major Network Changes

OPLIN will be introducing some *major* changes to its network this summer. These changes will involve Ethernet upgrades of the Internet connections for some libraries that previously only had T1 lines. Specifically, both Time Warner Cable and AT&T will be installing over 120 total Ethernet fiber lines around July although the majority of our new installations will be TWC. Currently, only 1/3 of the OPLIN network is Ethernet with the majority being T1 lines. After these changes, 90% of our network will be Ethernet with approximately 20-25 T1s left, which is a huge difference!

However, this is an ongoing process because we still plan to work on getting more libraries converted to Ethernet when possible in the future. The major obstacle is that some smaller, rural libraries don't have an easy way to get Ethernet connections in their area, so while it may make things more difficult, it's not necessarily impossible. In addition, the existing T1 contracts will be changing over to month-to-month in July instead of the previous long-term SOMACS contracts.

This new batch of TSR install orders was driven by E-rate (Form 471), and the contract deadline was Thursday, 3/24, to E-rate for July 1, 2011. These fiber upgrades are timed to coincide with the next E-rate year (FY 2012). The reason for this massive onset of recent upgrades started about a year ago – OPLIN obtained a legal opinion that we no longer had to buy services from the state contract, so we released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the entire network and got responses back from both TWC and AT&T.

Benefits of Ethernet vs. T1

- Ethernet is now an accepted universal standard
 - Better performance, more efficiency
 - Higher bandwidth, faster data transfer (speed)
 - Flexibility, scalability (upgrades will be easier)
 - Cost-effective (faster speeds, lower prices)
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- T1 lines are slower by comparison at 1.54 Mbps
 - Older technology, not flexible or scalable
 - Only way to increase speed is to add more T1s
 - Faster Ethernet is available for same T1 price

Non-Authorized Contacts, Beware. . .

For any libraries with new staff members, please remember to notify us if you would like for them to become authorized contacts for your library. Typically only authorized contacts can make requests on behalf of your library, and the reason for this procedure is to verify that those making requests have the authority to do so and are actually working for your library.

It's simple – to add staff members as authorized contacts, just have an already established contact request permission, by calling or sending e-mail, for us to add any new employees as contacts. If not, someone who is already an authorized contact will need to make future service requests to OPLIN.



About Browser Cookies & Cache

Web sites send small text files known as *cookies* to your web browser to store information on your computer for a specific length of time. Cookies are not necessarily harmful and can be used for authentication, online session details, site preferences, and shopping cart contents. Users can manually delete cookies periodically to save space or protect privacy because cookies can occasionally compromise your privacy or security by tracking computer activity. Most modern browsers can be configured to accept cookies and the timeframe to keep them, or even to delete them entirely upon closing the browser window. Some sites will not work without properly accepting cookies, so the best policy is to allow them and then delete them regularly.

Also, browsers download web pages and store local copies of them on your computer hard drive in an area called the *cache*. This speeds up the display time in your browser by reloading pages locally from the cache rather than downloading them again, which sometimes results in older or out-of-date versions of web pages. The cache does not empty itself, and eventually large amounts of data are saved to your computer, including some sensitive information. However, clearing your cache on a regular basis can improve speed and performance of your browser in addition to protecting your private information, especially on public computers.

Internet Explorer and Firefox are two of the most popular browsers in use today, and since there are only slight differences between available browsers and versions, figuring out the rest is easy once you know the basics.



Tech Tutorial

Brief instructions on how to delete cookies and cache in your Web browser

Internet Explorer (newer versions – 7/8/9)

- Select **Tools** → **Delete Browsing History** *OR* **Safety** → **Delete Browsing History** (IE7/8)
- Select **Tools** icon → **Safety** → **Delete browsing history** (IE9) (Shortcut: Ctrl+Shift+Del)
- Check options, such as Temporary Internet Files, Cookies, History, or any others (IE8/9) *OR*
- Click individual buttons – Delete files, Delete cookies, Delete history, etc. (IE7)
- Click **Delete** (IE8/9) *OR* **Delete all**, if desired (IE7)
- For more advanced settings: **Tools** → **Internet Options** (Menu or Command Bar)
- Check **Delete browsing history on exit** (Internet Options menu), if wanted
- To search without saving cookies/history: **Tools** → **InPrivate Browsing** (Ctrl+Shift+P)

Mozilla Firefox (newer versions – 3.0/3.5/4.0)

- Select **Tools** menu → **Clear Recent History** (FF3.5/4.0) (Shortcut: Ctrl+Shift+Del) *OR*
- Select **Tools** menu → **Clear Private Data** (FF3.0)
- From **Time range to clear** drop down menu, choose Everything, Today, etc.
- Click the arrow next to **Details** to show the options for clearing
- Check options, such as Browsing & Download History, Cookies, Cache
- Click **Clear Now** (FF3.5/4.0) *OR* **Clear Private Data Now** (FF3.0)
- For more advanced settings: **Tools** → **Options** → **Privacy** tab
- To search without saving cookies/history: **Tools** → **Start Private Browsing** (Ctrl+Shift+P)



E-mail Phishing Scams



Posted on the MeanLaura blog in early February, the topic of phishing scams was covered after individual OPLIN e-mail accounts had received a couple of such e-mails in January. However, we thought it worthwhile to briefly discuss this topic again as it is bound to come up at some point in the future. Phishing scams are e-mails that are supposedly from legitimate sources or businesses that are attempting to gain sensitive information from users, such as usernames, passwords, and financial account details. Sometimes these e-mails even include links to fake web sites for unsuspecting users to login and provide information, and by clicking these links, users can download malware.

Libraries have recently reported receiving e-mail messages claiming to be from OPLIN, some even with a spoofed e-mail address, such as info@oplin.org. Spoofing just means to impersonate or forge e-mail in which the sender address and parts of the header are altered to appear as though it originated from a different source. In the e-mails that we received, senders were trying to obtain user IDs, passwords, and dates of birth in addition to threatening to deactivate OPLIN e-mail accounts (which would never happen, by the way).

Again, some tips to keep in mind for the next time you receive a suspicious e-mail:

- We will *never* ask for your password in an e-mail because we have no reason to access your account.
- E-mails we send will typically come from support@oplin.org or from one of five OPLIN employees.
- We would not request strange personal details either, such as birth dates, financial information, etc.
- We will always identify ourselves as OPLIN staff in our e-mail signature lines.

Events Calendar

Friday, 4/8

OPLIN Board Retreat

Thurs, 4/28 – Fri, 4/29

SLO Board Retreat

Mon, 5/9 – Tues, 5/10

ALA Legislative Day

Friday, 5/13

OLC Board Meeting

Thursday, 5/26

SLO Board Meeting

Monday, 5/30

Memorial Day,
OPLIN CLOSED

Friday, 6/10

OPLIN Board Meeting

Thursday, 6/16

SLO Board Meeting

OPLIN Happenings & Reminders



We recently published a new Wikipedia article about the Ohio Web Library – check it out here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Web_Library

For any issues or questions, please contact **OPLIN Support** directly by sending an e-mail to support@oplin.org, or visit <http://support.oplin.org> for additional ways to reach us.

Lately, we have had some libraries use our web site contact form, which is really intended for those requesting general OPLIN information. We will eventually receive those contact forms, but the best and quickest way to reach us is through the Support e-mail address.