



**Vendor contract changes = OPLIN network changes
and the change is GOOD!**

The Ohio Broadband Network, which was put together by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and OARnet last year, and which we were using to carry our Ethernet traffic from remote locations back to the OPLIN core, is being dismantled due to funding issues. This means that we will need to purchase "long-haul" connectivity for the Ethernet connections we have outside central Ohio, paying the current vendor (either AT&T or TW Telecom) to carry our traffic back to Columbus rather than to the nearest Ohio Broadband Network node. In some cases, this could triple our current connection costs.

As we wrestled with a plan for providing long-haul Ethernet service to libraries, we worked with OIT, AT&T and TW Telecom. OIT has devoted a lot of effort to finding an affordable solution to this problem, which strongly affects several state agencies in addition to OPLIN. Everyone involved has been as flexible as possible, within the constraints of policies and corporate directives.

But there is good news...contract changes are in the air! We can now purchase true Ethernet connections from Time Warner Cable under a new state contract. This provides us with a real choice of competitive vendors in many parts of the state for the first time. Time Warner Cable does not charge for long-haul, instead charging for the cost of installing the circuit (\$1,500 plus construction costs to bring fiber to the library).

Stephen and Karl have been working with Time Warner Cable to identify libraries which they can serve and to determine their construction costs. Because we have been considering quite a few libraries, they have provided some very attractive quotes by absorbing all construction costs and just charging the \$1,500 installation fee, which is mandated by the state contract.

We are talking about a change that could involve 15% or more of our entire network connections and will involve juggling fees, penalties, and savings that will impact the OPLIN budget. The end result will be that many more libraries will have fiber Ethernet connections when the changes are complete.

The first round of updates will be determined by our quarterly bandwidth samples. As soon as a library qualifies, the tech contact is notified. In the meantime, if you are curious about how much bandwidth your library is using, just ask! Send a note to support@oplin.org and Vince or Bobbi will be happy to send your utilization charts.





Open to open source

In the last edition of the OPLIN CIRCUIT, we told you about the open source software that we use on the network. Now, we'd like to share what we have on our desktops.

All of us here in the OPLIN office agree that we like Thunderbird for our mail and Firefox for our browser. Beyond that, we all kind of do our own thing.

TiddlyWiki - Unlike Wikipedia, this Wiki is all about you, or what ever you want to make it about. Use several different instances of TiddlyWiki, if you'd like, to keep track of notes, journals, or lists. <http://tiddlywiki.com/>

tbGTD - Based off of TiddlyWiki, this one is designed to handle the tasks of Getting Things Done. It has a calendar, and features such as action items, projects and you can even assign priority your tasks and have reminders. <http://tbgttd.tiddlyspot.com>

 **Second Life viewer** - You can't get in to Second Life without a viewer. The original is about the most reliable out there. However, if you want a few advanced features, there is also the Emerald Second Life viewer. <http://secondlife.com/support/downloads.php> & <http://modularsystems.sl/downloads.html>

 **OpenOffice** - Share documents with friends, coworkers, and family, no matter if they use Windows, or Linux. <http://www.openoffice.org/>

 **UltraVNC** - A cheap and easy open source way of connecting to remote computers is VNC. UltraVNC allows you to see the screen of the remote PC, and even lets you transfer files back and forth. <http://www.uvnc.com/download/>

 **TrueCrypt** - Got a secret, or you want to keep something a secret? I use TrueCrypt as it is open source, works on multiple platforms and can create virtual encrypted disks, even entire partitions or storage devices. <http://www.truecrypt.org/downloads>

 **KompoZer** is a complete web authoring system that combines web file management and easy-to-use WYSIWYG web page editing. <http://kompozer.net/>



Gimp - If you can't afford PhotoShop, give Gimp a try. There are plenty of free, online tutorials. <http://www.gimp.org/downloads/>



Eraser - This program will allow you to erase files securely and will even allow you to pick the method of removal. <http://eraser.heidi.ie/>



Adium is a free instant messaging application for Mac OS X that can connect to AIM, MSN, Jabber, Yahoo, and more. <http://adium.im/>



Colloquy - Traditionally, chat clients on the Mac have been anything but glamorous. Colloquy is an advanced IRC, SILC & ICB client which aims to fill this void. <http://colloquy.info/>



Ubuntu Desktop - The fastest way to see it is to take the tour: <http://www.ubuntu.com/products/whatisubuntu/910features/>



Pidgin is an easy and free chat client used by millions. Connect to AIM, MSN, Yahoo, and more chat networks all at once. <http://www.pidgin.im/>



xChat is an IRC chat program for both Linux and Windows. It allows you to join multiple IRC channels at the same time, talk publicly, privately, etc. Even file transfers are possible. <http://xchat.org/>



VirtualBox is a powerful virtualization product being actively developed with frequent releases and has an ever growing list of features, supported guest operating systems and platforms it runs on. <http://www.virtualbox.org/>



Transmission is a BitTorrent client that's fast, easy & free. <http://www.transmissionbt.com>



Wireshark is a network protocol analyzer. It monitors and inspects your line traffic for hundreds of protocols, with more being added all the time. <http://www.wireshark.org/>



Filezilla is a free client or server FTP solution. <http://filezilla-project.org/>



Monday, January 18, 2010
and
Monday, February 22, 2010



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<http://www.facebook.com/oplinoffice>



Line troubles?

Please do not call line issues in to the phone company unless YOU own the line (for example, a branch connection).

If there is an issue with an OPLIN connection, OPLIN staff members will open tickets and report the issue to necessary personnel.

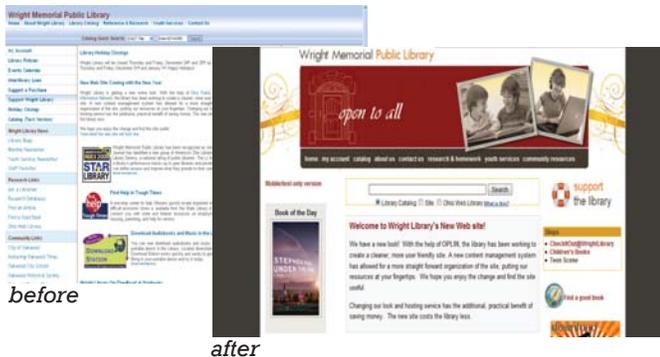
If the phone company gets called out unnecessarily, we are charged for the trip. If you call them out, you will be fiscally responsible if charges are incurred.

We're here for you! Let us do the work!
OPLIN Support: 1-888-966-7546



Check out the new sites!

Henderson Memorial Public Library
<http://www.henderson.lib.oh.us/>



Wright Memorial Public Library
<http://www.wrightlibrary.org>

Does your library need a new website?
Contact OPLIN Support for info!

In the works...

Cuyahoga Falls PL, Granville PL, Harbor-Topky PL, Tuscarawas County PL and Homer PL