



Bell Ringer

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ITC HAS THE PERFECT PLAN FOR YOU

No matter how you use the Internet, ITC has a Fiber-Fast and reliable package designed for you. ITC has updated the Internet packages available to customers. These new symmetrical speed packages should be a game changer for many, including businesses, content creators, remote workers, and gamers.

Symmetrical Internet packages ensure that both uploads and downloads happen at the same speed. This results in more efficient data management, reduced latency, and enhanced performance, making it ideal for households or businesses requiring seamless two-way data transmission (examples: gaming, streaming, or video calls.)

With three plans to choose from, let's determine if you are an Explorer, Multitasker, or Maximizer.

- **Explorer**—This package is for people who casually use the Internet to check email, surf the web, browse social media, or occasionally stream a video. There are usually only one or two people in the household, and these people aren't heavy Internet users.
- **Multitasker**—Many households and small businesses fit into this category. These people game, stream, and work from home. Normally, many devices in the house are used at the same time.
- **Maximizer**—This package is for people who want the very best. With ultra-fast upload and download speeds, it will give you fast Internet for whatever you have going on.

ITC wants to make this easy on you. We want you to find the speed/package that is right for your household or business. For more information on our speeds, visit our website at www.itc-web.com.



WHICH PLAN DESCRIBES YOU?



EXPLORER

100M/100M

Best for the basic Internet surfer, occasional streamer.



MULTITASKER

250M/250M

Best for online gaming, video streaming, working remotely.



MAXIMIZER

1GIG/1GIG

Best for the one who wants the bragging rights, wants the best... multiple gamers, large file uploads/downloads, heavy streamer.

BE CAREFUL ON GOOGLE

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

Cybercriminals are now manipulating Google search results to trick users into calling fraudulent phone numbers that they control. This dangerous scheme preys on individuals searching for legitimate organizations, like those seeking customer service.

How the Scam Works

Imagine using Google to search for a trusted organization's customer support number. Instead of providing genuine contact information, scammers have found ways to manipulate the search results, causing a fake phone number to appear instead. If you call the number listed in these tampered search results, you'll be connected to a scammer posing as a legitimate representative.

Once the scammer has you on the line, they may claim that your account requires immediate action—such as updating your details or transferring funds to protect your assets. They might ask you to provide sensitive information, including your login credentials, to make their story seem convincing. Once they have access, these scammers can quickly drain your accounts, transferring your money into their own.

Scammers can be persuasive. They often create a sense of urgency to pressure victims into complying with their requests.

How to Protect Yourself

Avoiding this scam requires careful consideration of any information you find online. Here are some steps to protect yourself from falling victim to fraudulent phone number scams:

- 1. Verify the Website:** When searching for an organization's contact information, make sure you're visiting the official website. Don't rely solely on the first search result. Scammers often create fake ads or sites that appear in search rankings.
- 2. Cross-Check Phone Numbers:** Before dialing any phone number, cross-check it with the organization's official website. Don't trust phone numbers that appear in search results or third-party websites without verifying them first.
- 3. Report Suspicious Listings:** If you encounter a fake listing or suspicious advertisement, report it through Google's services. Google provides tools to help users flag fraudulent content.
- 4. Be Skeptical of Urgency:** Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency. If you're being rushed into making a decision or hand over sensitive information, pause and reevaluate the situation. Legitimate companies rarely pressure customers.
- 5. Use Official Communication Channels:** Instead of relying on search results, try using the organization's app, email, or secure chat options. These are often safer and more reliable ways to contact a company.

With scammers finding new ways to get your personal information, it's more important than ever to be cautious and stay informed. By following simple precautionary steps, you can help protect yourself from falling victim to these increasingly sophisticated scams.

CLASSES IN OCTOBER

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

In October, ITC will offer a streaming class, including ITC Stream. Since this class was popular in the Spring, we wanted to offer it again to those who couldn't attend last time or want a refresher course.

ITC will discuss how to stream, different streaming apps, and ITC Stream. We will have classes at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM in the following towns: Ivanhoe, Clear Lake, Webster, Bookings, and Milbank. If you are interested in ITC Stream or want to know what streaming TV is all about, please consider attending this class.

Use your phone's camera to scan this QR code for dates and times or go to www.itc-web.com/itcuniversity. If you have any questions about the class, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667. We hope to see you there!



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



On Wednesday, September 11, ITC celebrated 70 Years Under the Coop Umbrella. We showed videos of each decade, including a timeline of how technology and ITC have grown. We handed out seventy \$50 bills and two grand prizes. Every member left with an ITC umbrella.

CEO Tracy Bandemer gave a presentation that included highlights of the past year of ITC. She also touched on the new Internet speed packages, esports, and ITC Stream. She ended her report with a bang—**ITC will pay out \$7.3 million in capital credits this December!**



Overall, the ITC Annual Meeting was a success. There was a great turnout of over 400 people who played Bingo, enjoyed a good meal, and learned about their Coop. ITC can't wait to see everyone again next year!