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Wireless Coverage a Priority with XIT

XIT Wireless began in 2008 an aggressive approach to provide our customers with the best possible wireless coverage and to prepare for implementation of “Phase II E911” coverage for our service area.

In order to continue to provide our customers with the best possible wireless service, XIT began converting our wireless cell sites to a “sectorized” configuration. Basically, this means a cell site that is currently configured as an “Omni” site is providing service in a 180 degree circle with a single antenna transmitting the signal over that entire circle at a specified power setting is changed from providing the circle coverage to sectorized coverage by breaking up the circle into three pie shaped sectors with separate transmit antennas for each “sector”. This gives us the ability to cover more area by being able to transmit more power in a defined area instead of over the whole area.



Sectorized cell site configuration provides better wireless coverage to XIT's customers.

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XIT MagicMail Spam Email Filters

Dealing with email spam is a difficult process; spam email is annoying, time consuming and can come with dreaded viruses that disrupt your work and computer. XIT continues to monitor the issue of email spam and all XIT email customers have the ability to set their own white list and black list criteria via XIT's MagicMail system.

Say what? Okay, let's start with some definitions:

White List: A list of "from" email addresses that XIT's email server is configured to pass through the XIT spam filter to the customer's in-box. White listing can be done by a particular email address or domain.

Black List: A list of "from" email addresses that XIT's email server is configured to block in our XIT email server, so they will not reach the customer's in-box. Black listing also allows the customer to block by subject as well as email address or domain.

To set up your white and black list criteria using XIT's MagicMail system do the following:

- Via the Internet go to <http://mail.xit.net>
- Login using your full email address (name@xit.net) and your password.
- Click on Spam Management
- Click on the paper icon next to: "Subject: Blacklist," "From: Blacklist", or "From: Whitelist" in the Edit Spam List box. Follow the on screen instructions to enter a new value to your email white list, black list or subject list.

If you have questions or would like a printed copy of instructions for setting your spam criteria through XIT's MagicMail, contact your local XIT store location or contact the Internet Help Desk at 1-800-687-0780.



XIT Goes GREEN with Cell Phone Recycling

Recycle your used cell phone at XIT! It's simple, bring your old cell phone and battery to your local XIT Wireless or XIT Communications location and drop it in our cell phone recycling collection box. XIT will see that your old cell phone is recycled by an established cell phone recycling company, and it will not end up in a landfill. Proper recycling of old cell phones and their batteries is good for our environment and the right thing to do! So **GO GREEN** with XIT and recycle those old phones!



Construction begins at the new Buffalo Springs cell site. With the addition of this new tower, XIT will have 43 towers in our home coverage area.

Wireless Coverage.... *Continued from page 1*

Each sector has its own transmit antenna which gives an over all better coverage area, better quality and more capacity per site than when the tower was in an "Omni" configuration. XIT now has all but 3 of their 40+ wireless cell sites sectorized for improved coverage.

Construction started the first of March on XIT's newest cell site located on the Buffalo Springs Ranch along Hwy 296 in the northern part of Dallam County. This site is slated for completion by the end of April 2009. This site will also be a tri-sectorized site and will improve the coverage for customers and emergency services in this area.



OMNI cell site configuration

Phase II E911
The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission requested that all service providers in this area make the necessary changes to meet federally mandated Phase II Enhanced 911 (E911) requirements. Phase II E911 requires that service providers like XIT update their wireless systems to allow for 911 calls placed on a mobile phone to be located quickly and efficiently. This has required system upgrades to provide additional data to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) regarding the mobile caller's location via GPS co-ordinates of the mobile user. With our cell sites now "sectorized" this gives XIT Wireless a better quality location service to meet the FCC requirements for E911.

24-HOUR TROUBLE LINE

800-232-3312 or 806-244-0811

2009 Youth Tour Winner Selected Stratford Student Takes the Prize

Sunny Russell, the 17-year-old daughter of Lem and Cindy Russell from Stratford, was recently selected as XIT's 2009 winner of the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., which will be held from May 30th through June 3rd.



Sunny and her family live in XIT Rural Telephone's Kerrick Exchange. She is a junior at Stratford High School, where she has received the D.A.R. American History, National Honor Society and President's Education awards. Sunny was voted as class favorite and is listed in Who's Who in World Geography. Her hobbies include water skiing, being the school mascot, showing cattle, hanging out with friends, shopping and shooting 22 small bore and air rifles. In fact, she recently returned from competing at the Air Rifle Junior Olympics Competition, which was held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sunny also belongs to 4-H Club, First Baptist Church Youth, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and band. She enjoys performing the duties of school mascot at athletic events.

Sunny hopes to be accepted by a university and attend on a rifle scholarship. She would like to major in chemistry. Her career plans include becoming a chemist and creating new forms of makeup.

XIT is proud to provide this opportunity to Sunny and hopes that it will be an experience she will never forget! The next time you see her, be sure to offer your congratulations!

What is the FRS Youth Tour?

It's a four-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. It's an opportunity to visit famous historical sites and amazing museums. It's the chance to meet other high school juniors from across rural America and to share their experiences. It's a chance to learn more about the telecommunications industry and an opportunity to learn first-hand about the legislative and governmental processes. It's a blast ... an experience of a lifetime!

XIT provides this opportunity to area juniors because it believes the strength of our community lies in the education of our youth. XIT is a proud member of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), a trade organization that represents over 560 locally-owned telephone companies, like XIT, throughout rural America. Many NTCA member companies will be sending students from their communities to Washington, D.C. for the tour.



Another Misunderstood Internet Topic

A lot of confusion exists on the Web. One of the most misunderstood topics is Internet pop-up ads. To many people, just mentioning these words conjures up thoughts of privacy invasion and information theft. However, this Internet “object” does have a place in the online world. Read on...

Pop-Up Ads

How many of you have been surfing a site only to be surprised when an ad pops up? You know what I mean. For no apparent reason, a new window pops up with some advertising in it. In order to get rid of it, you have to use your mouse to close it. And to make matters worse, some ads refuse to close. When you click on the Close button, another ad just pops up. Talk about frustrating. In addition, a new type of ad has surfaced recently, the “pop-under ad.” Used most prominently by X10 (<http://www.x10.com>), the “spy camera” store, these ads are created UNDER your current web browser. You don’t see them until you start closing windows. Pretty sneaky, eh?

Is there a way to get rid of them? You bet. A great FREE program, the Google Toolbar (<http://toolbar.google.com>), allows you to block most ads. This program looks at the size of an ad graphic and skips downloading it if you want. If you are on a slow Internet connection, this can really speed things up. Not all ads conform to size standards, though, so Google can’t catch them all.

Another great program to consider is Ad Killer by Softcows (http://www.softcows.com/ad_killer.htm). This small program monitors sites while you surf, squashing any pop-up windows and banner ads that attempt to display. You can try it free for 30 days. If you like it, though, they want \$19.95, which includes free updates.

These programs are great at what they do, but keep in mind one very important fact: If everyone starts blocking Internet ads, websites will generate less revenue from them, thereby hurting the “free information” concept that makes the Web so popular. In other words, advertising keeps most websites in business. Also, I wouldn’t go around talking about sites with many pop-up ads. The majority of these locations are adult-oriented and people might start to wonder about your surfing habits.

Eric Spellmann is the Owner and President of Spellmann & Associates, a technology company offering employee training, website design, PC repair, and network maintenance. He is a featured speaker at a number of state and national technology conferences and writes a syndicated column in fourteen newspapers. In addition, he produces a weekly television segment for his local ABC affiliate. To contact him, visit his website, <http://www.EricSpellmann.com>



Construction begins at the new Buffalo Springs cell site. With the addition of this new tower XIT will have 43 towers in our home coverage area.

XIT Completes Digital TV Upgrade in Hereford and Vega

XIT Communications recently completed its digital TV upgrade in Hereford and Vega. Now, XIT offers Local Phone, Long Distance, High Speed Internet, Digital TV Cable and Wireless Service to their customers in Hereford and Vega. Customers can subscribe to one service or bundle their services together for additional savings. XIT hosted a Grand Opening on Friday, February 13, 2009 at our Hereford Customer Care Center to celebrate the completion of this expansion project. More than 250 people enjoyed chili dogs with all the trimmings and a fun day with two live radio remotes and great door prizes. Approximately 30 members of the Hereford Chamber of Commerce were on hand for our ribbon cutting ceremony. KPAN and LaLey Radio set up for live remote broadcasts during the celebration. XIT has been a part of the business community in Hereford since December 16, 1991 when we opened our doors to provide wireless services. XIT now offers a full



Sid Shaw, Executive Director of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce, interviews Kathy Duggan, XIT Assistant General Manager, during the KPAN Radio Station live remote broadcast during the Grand Opening celebration.



XIT Customers enjoy lunch during the grand opening celebration.



XIT Management and Staff: front, l-r, Kathy Duggan, XIT Assistant General Manager; Janie Jimenez, Sharon Ruland, Customer Service Supervisor; Ruben Coronado, Raquel Vasquez and Kevin Foster; back, Tony Martinez, Trena Howell-Peck, Mandy Rysavy, Andrew Tijerina, Nick Balderaz, and Lloyd Ames, Mgr. Southern Area.

Faster Internet Speeds

XIT recently increased Internet speeds for all customers that subscribe to our 750 kbps Internet service either as a stand alone service or packaged in a bundle. Your 750 kbps Internet speed has been increased to 1.5 Mbps. Although your “speed” has increased, your “monthly charge” has not increased for this service. You will receive the 1.5 Mbps Internet speed at the “old” 750 kbps rate.

To test your download and upload speeds, please visit XIT’s Speed Test Website at <http://xit.net/speedtest>.

XIT appreciates your business and continually seeks to improve our service for our customers. If you have any questions about your XIT Internet service, please contact your local XIT Customer Care Center or contact the Internet Help Desk (toll free) at 1-800-687-0780.



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Digital TV Transition Delayed

By now, you have probably heard that the digital TV transition that was supposed to happen nationwide on February 17, 2009 has been delayed until June 12, 2009. But what is it? And what do I have to do? *If you are an XIT Cable TV subscriber in Dalhart, Boys Ranch, Channing, Hartley, Texline, Stratford, Hereford or Vega, you don't have to do anything! You are already converted to a digital signal!*

What is the Digital Television Transition?

For more than fifty years, TV broadcasters have sent their shows to your TV using "analog" signals. By June 12, 2009, full power analog signals will be gone and all stations will use only new digital signals to broadcast programming to your TV. Some stations have already made the switch and now only broadcast in digital signals.

What does this mean to you?

This means that if you receive your TV service from a cable provider (like XIT) or a satellite service provider, you are set. If, however, you have an analog-only TV with a roof-top antenna or "rabbit ears," you will not be able to watch the TV stations you currently enjoy after the June 12, 2009 transition date unless you get a "converter box".

Converter Box?

A converter box will attach to your TV and allows you to continue to view programming on your existing TV. You can get two \$40 coupons per household from the US Government to help pay for the converter boxes. For more information about the Digital Transition call 1-888-225-5322 or go to www.dtv.gov.