



Bell Ringer

Volume 58, No 11 March 2025
Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226

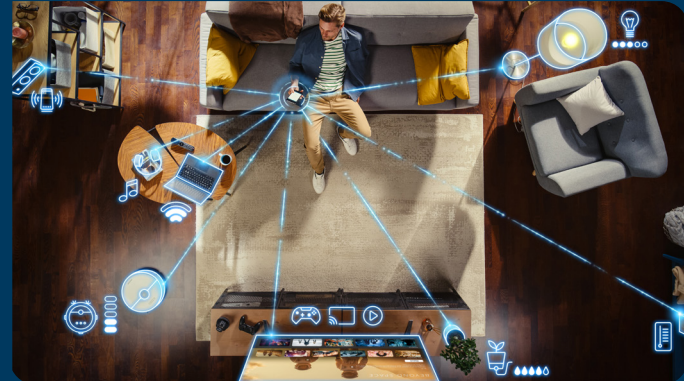
COMMAND A CONNECTED HOME WITH EASE

Are you taking advantage of the ultimate Wi-Fi experience? With the Blast Wi-Fi app from ITC, you can take command of your connected home to maximize productivity, prioritize bandwidth, and safeguard your network.

Blast Wi-Fi, powered by ITC, allows you to manage everything on your Wi-Fi network. With the Blast Wi-Fi app, you can have peace of mind with total visibility of your entire network. See who and what is connected, set up guest networks so you don't have to share your primary password, and ensure healthy screen time by monitoring usage and creating offline schedules for the kids.

At ITC, we want you to have the best Internet and Wi-Fi experience possible. The Blast Wi-Fi app is one way to make that happen. After signing up for Blast Wi-Fi service, the app is easy to download on an Apple or Android device. The ITC website offers app tutorials. Visit www.itc-web.com/blast-wi-fi so you can discover all the options available to you.

Want to take your Wi-Fi to the next level? Go to ITC's website at www.itc-web.com/blast-wi-fi to learn more about ProtectIQ® for total network security and ExperiencelQ® for advanced parental controls. If you have questions or want to add Blast Wi-Fi, call ITC at 1.800.417.8667 for package options.



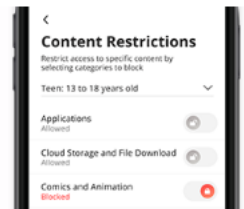
Ways to manage your Wi-Fi with the Blast Wi-Fi app.

With a few simple taps, you can:



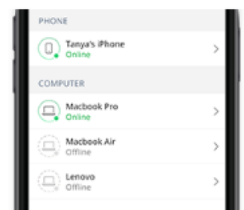
Create and share custom networks that allow you to adjust your primary SSID and Wi-Fi password

Set parental controls – manage time limits, and protect against harmful content



Be notified of critical events like attempted virus infections or intrusions

Manage your devices – view what's connected to your network



STREAMING THE RIGHT WAY

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

Streaming has changed how we watch TV. You can watch movies, shows, and even sports from your couch with just a few clicks. And if you've ever spotted one of those little streaming boxes at a fair or a big retailer, you might have wondered if it's a cheap, easy way to upgrade your TV experience. These boxes are super popular because they give you access to tons of content, but there's a catch: while the box itself is legal, how you use it can get tricky.

These devices are small Android-based software that plug into your TV and let you stream content from a bunch of apps. They're pretty easy to set up, and you don't need to sign up for a bunch of subscriptions. But here's the thing—sometimes, the apps that come pre-installed on these devices may give you access to stuff you shouldn't be watching. That's where the line between legal and illegal gets blurry.

Copyright laws in the U.S. are pretty strict. Creators have the right to decide who gets to distribute and stream their content. So, when you stream or download something without permission, that's breaking the law. We've all heard about people getting into trouble for pirating movies or sports games, and those consequences can get pretty serious—fines, lawsuits, and even jail time. You could get into trouble if you use one of these boxes to stream pirated content.

It's easy to think, "I'm just using this box to watch a movie, what's the big deal?" But the real issue comes up if you're watching stuff that hasn't been officially licensed. Even the stores selling these devices could be held responsible for promoting piracy. That's why some major retailers have pulled certain products off their shelves after realizing they were helping people stream illegal content.

The good news? There are tons of legit ways to stream without any worries. Services like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video work with the people who own the rights to the content, so you know you're in the clear. If you're using a streaming device, just make sure you're sticking to apps that provide licensed content.

In the end, these devices can be a super convenient way to watch your favorite shows and movies. But just like anything, it's important to use them the right way. Own the box, but make sure you're not using it to break the law. If you stick to the legal streaming options, you'll be able to relax and enjoy your shows without any stress. So, grab the remote, settle in, and start streaming—just make sure you're doing it with the right apps!

If you have any questions about what devices to use to stream or how to get started, please contact ITC at 1.800.417.8667 or visit us online and learn about ITC Stream at www.itc-web.com/stream.

INTRO TO CANVA

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

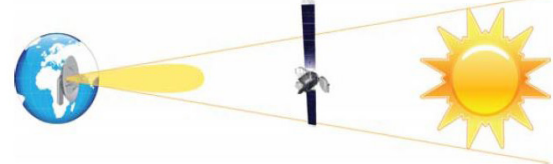
ITC University's Intro to Canva class is available on the ITC website. This Intro to Canva class is a 30-minute class that can be watched at your leisure on the ITC website under News. You can also scan the QR code to the right to view the class.

Canva is an online design software that helps you create posters, cards, social media posts, and more. During this class, we review how to start a project and the meaning of the different icons.

If you have any questions about this class or ideas for future classes, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.



SOLAR OUTAGES



It's that time again when we start to see solar outages. This time of year, the sun's rays can overpower satellite feeds used to deliver TV service. Your TV may experience fuzzy channels, tiling, and frozen or total picture loss. They can last from a few minutes up to 15 minutes per day. These outages occur in the Spring and Fall. As in previous years, we expect to see these outages during the first half of March. If you have any questions, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

CAPITAL CREDITS

Have you cashed your check? If you still need to cash your capital credits check from ITC, please cash it at your earliest convenience. If unsure, please scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera. The ITC website will pop up with a link to members with outstanding capital credits checks. If your name is on the list or you have questions, contact us at 1.800.417.8667.



Taxes: Every year, Coop members receive notice of the patronage credits they earned the previous year.

Current tax laws say that no part of the capital credits allocated to Cooperative patrons is subject to taxation until paid in cash.

When patrons receive cash for allocated credits, they are only subject to taxation to the extent that the payment for services was deducted on the income tax return for the year the credit was allocated. The non-business portion is not subject to taxation. For more information, please consult your tax advisor.