



# Bell Ringer

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Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226

## MANAGED FIREWALL FROM ITC

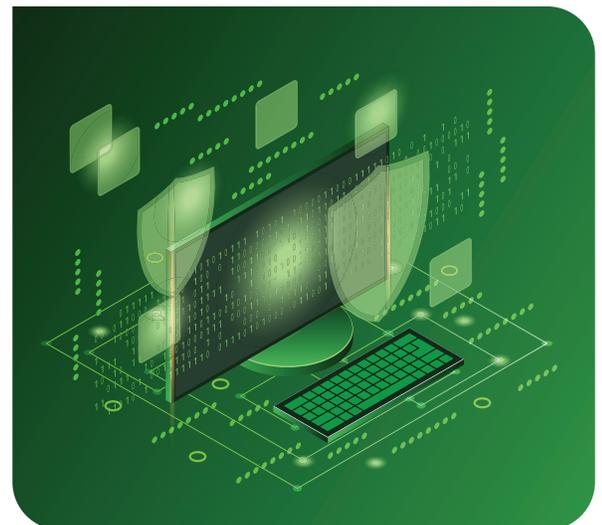
ITC offers businesses of any size an array of Managed Services, including Managed Firewall. By subscribing to Managed Firewall, ITC provides continuous security monitoring of your network. ITC will customize the Managed Firewall service to meet your needs by offering managed switches and managed wireless access points.

### Why should ITC manage your equipment?

- Each install is tailored to your business's unique needs
- Quick response time from ITC staff
- ITC will keep your equipment up-to-date and secure

### Reasons why your business may need a Managed Firewall?

- User Virtual Private Network (VPN)
- Site-to-Site VPN
- Deep Packet Inspection
- Intrusion Prevention
- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Inspection
- Advanced Threat Protection
- Web Filtering
- Guest Network
- Multiple Networks/Wi-Fi



Securely connect your business to the Internet by letting ITC manage your firewall. Whether you run a large or small business, ITC has several solutions to assist you with all your IT needs. The Managed Services offered by ITC will allow you to focus on your business, leaving the IT work to ITC.

### Other Managed Services Include:

- IT Support - ITC's technicians will assist you with your IT planning and decisions. Technicians will deploy, maintain, and support the hardware and software within your infrastructure.
- Managed Wi-Fi - Take the worry out of maintaining your business wireless network. Real-time statistics are available to track usage and performance.
- Endpoint & Anti-Virus Protection - Sophos endpoint protection integrates proven technology like malicious traffic detection with real-time threat intelligence from SophosLabs to help you prevent, detect, and remediate threats with ease.
- ITC Backup - A local cloud option with support from ITC. Monitor and manage backups via a web-based dashboard.
- Email & Web Hosting - Up-to-date modern servers adhere to and support the latest security standards. ITC technicians are available to assist with configuring DNS settings and domain registration.
- Hosted Voice - A business phone solution packed with great benefits and flexible options.

Instead of working with multiple vendors, ITC offers a streamlined approach to managing your IT tasks. Ultimately, this can save staff time and be more cost-effective. ITC's team dedicated to these products is trained, qualified, and certified to be your one call for support. Give ITC a call at 1.800.417.8667 to discuss your business!

### HOW DID WE GET EXTRA SPEED?

*By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician*

As you enjoy your new Internet speed, you might wonder how ITC can suddenly provide you with a faster speed, in many cases double what you had before. It definitely wasn't a short process.

As many of you know, ITC has worked since 2006 to connect fiber everywhere within the network, including directly to your house and business. Fiber can carry more information simultaneously than the old copper lines. This translates into a faster speed being available.

More recently, we just finished installing and configuring new networking equipment designed to make high-speed Internet connections even better. This equipment connects your router to the Internet using next-generation technologies that work to optimize online experiences.

The benefits of our upgrades go beyond faster speeds too. We have positioned ourselves to be ready for future technologies, such as greater network redundancy, and will be able to fully support the IPv6 addressing protocols. The ITC network will continue to be efficient and secure into the future.

On the new ITC network, the increased speed will enable you to stream more video, play more multiplayer online games, and even get more work done than ever before. You will also be able to have superior conversations over a video conference, and Internet calls will work better.

Another exciting thing ITC did a few years ago was move to our current Blast Wi-Fi routers and Internet packages. These routers support the latest wireless standards, which, when paired with one of your new devices that has Wi-Fi 6, can support wireless speeds up to 400 Mbps and wired speeds up to 1 Gig. This was discussed in further detail in last month's article, but in summary, if your device supports Wi-Fi 6, it is capable of the fastest wireless speed available today.

If you lease a Blast Wi-Fi router, ITC ensures it is kept up-to-date and as secure as possible. ITC even provides tools that help you manage your network. With various options, you can set up parental controls to shut off equipment at certain times. You can also control your security, view alerts, and even set up a guest network, all from the Blast Wi-Fi app.

We also have Managed Wi-Fi options for our business customers with available add-ons for deep packet inspection through our Secure Gateway Basic and advanced firewall policies to protect your network and data through the Security Gateway Advanced option. With these products, we can even help you set up virtual network segments to help increase your security network traffic management.

Alright, maybe you hadn't wondered where the speed came from, but we hope you are enjoying the upgrade!

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Watch for ITC in the Clear Lake parade on March 17 and the Watertown parade on March 18!

### FUTURE CLASSES

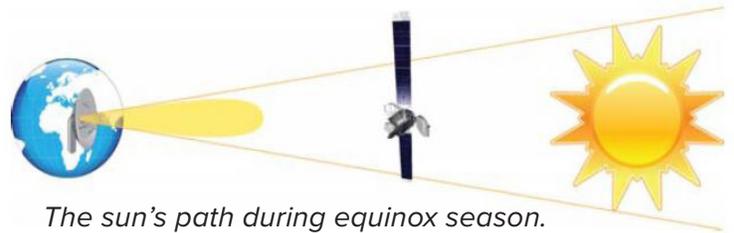
*By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist*

ITC University is looking for ideas for online classes. If you have any ideas that you would like made into a short tutorial video, please email ITC at [marketing@itccoop.com](mailto:marketing@itccoop.com).

ITC does have a couple of online classes and tips for you on our website. To find these, click on "News" at the top of the website and click "ITC University" in the Category Filters on the right side of the news article.

### SOLAR OUTAGES

It's that time again when we start to see solar outages. This time of year, the sun 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. Any questions, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.



*The sun's path during equinox season.*

### 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 you are 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.