



Internet Speed Matters, But So Does Reliability

Discussions about what to consider when choosing an internet plan tend to focus on speed. That's certainly understandable, given that the more the speed you have, the less time you'll spend waiting for big files to load or video buffering to stop. However, the way families and businesses evaluate internet service is evolving beyond just speed to also include reliability.

You can think of it this way: Internet speed is like the speed limit of a highway versus the number of lanes and the likelihood of roadblocks. How valuable is the ability to travel quickly if there's congestion and unreliable conditions that often hinder you from doing so?

For many businesses and homes, internet access is nearly as important as other utilities such as electricity, natural gas, and water. Having unreliable internet is stressful and counterproductive. If there's downtime, businesses simply can't operate in an efficient manner and productivity suffers. For families, unreliable internet can be an annoyance that occasionally prevents the enjoyment of streaming services and social media. For those who work from home, the consequences are more serious. It can severely limit the ability to complete projects and connect with colleagues.



You can rest assured that Huxley Communications makes internet reliability a high priority and proudly maintains an uptime of 99.999%. We've invested heavily in our fiber network, and we proactively monitor it to minimize service interruptions. Our network is also designed with redundant paths, meaning if a fiber optic cable is accidentally cut, internet traffic can often be rerouted to another path to continue working.

The internet reliability you experience from Huxley Communications is further enhanced by the knowledgeable, professional support you receive from our local team of employees. Customer service goes hand-in-hand with reliability. Should issues develop — after all, no technology is foolproof — our goal is to get you back up and running as soon as possible.

For complete details about the reliable, fast, and affordable internet plans we offer, call 515-597-2281 or visit www.huxcomm.net.

HUXLEY HAPPENINGS

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day – Office Closed

Friday, July 3
Independence Day – Office Closed



CONTACT INFORMATION

Huxley Communications
P.O. Box 36 • Huxley, IA 50124
515-597-2281 or 800-231-4922
www.huxcomm.net
huxtel@huxcomm.net

Free Internet Tech Support
515-597-HELP (4357) • Available 24/7

Report an Outage
515-597-2281

Call Before You Dig
Iowa One Call • 800-292-8989

Levi Bappe
General Manager

Connie Patrick
Business Office Manager

Terry Ferguson
Director of Operations

Brant Strumpfer
Plant Manager

SPRING 2020



Is Working from Home New to You?

Many more people are now working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If this work arrangement is new to you, you may be struggling to maintain productivity and focus (not to mention balance work and parenting responsibilities).

Here are a few tips from seasoned pros who've worked from home for years:

- **Stick to your workday routine as much as possible.** Work roughly the same hours you did before and continue to get dressed in real clothes. Resist the temptation to work in your pajamas!
- **Set up a designated workspace.** Work from a desk or table in an area away from other family members so you have the quiet you need to stay on task. Also sit in a supportive chair to help prevent back pain.
- **Stay connected to coworkers.** Use applications such as Zoom or FaceTime to help maintain morale during this period of isolation.

If you need to make changes to your home's internet service to accommodate working from home, call us at 515-597-2281.

Remote Work is Working Well for a Growing Number of People

Working from home is expected to become more commonplace in the coming years. That's because remote work offers economic and social benefits including cost savings, improved work/life balance, and higher productivity. It's not just freelancers who work remotely, either. *The State of Remote Work 2018* found 58% of remote workers were company employees.

Do you currently work remotely or wish you could do so? You'll find these statistics interesting:

- **2/3** of employers report **increased productivity** for remote workers compared to in-office workers.
- **Remote workers** can **save \$7,000 a year** and employers up to \$11,000.
- Remote workers report **82% reduced stress**.
- **57%** of the **IT industry** in the U.S. is now remote.
- **50.9%** of the U.S. workforce, or 86.5 million people, could be **freelancing** by 2028.
- About **one in four Americans** are now **working remotely** on an occasional basis.
- The **10 most popular work from home positions** in America are accountant, engineer, instructor, writer, consultant, program manager, project manager, customer service representative, business development manager, and account executive.
- Gallup predicts **73% of employers** will have some **remote employees** by 2028.
- **1/3 of workers** would change jobs for remote work opportunities.
- **43% of remote workers** consider a **flexible schedule** to be the biggest benefit.
- Companies with female CEOs **were four times more likely** to offer **remote work opportunities** than those with men at the helm.
- **Less than one-third** of remote workers have a **home office**. Instead, **27%** say they work from the living room, **16%** from the bedroom, **13%** from the dining room, and **10%** from the kitchen.

Huxley Communications can equip your home with a reliable high-speed internet connection to meet the requirements of remote work. We also offer a variety of phone and security solutions. To get details, call 515-597-2281.

Sources: www.tecla.io/blog/2019-remote-it-workers-stats-companies-should-know, www.greatworklife.com/telecommuting-remote-working-statistics-trends





Think Wi-Fi Troubleshooting is Too Much Trouble?

There are people out there who love the challenge of researching why their home's Wi-Fi network isn't working right and figuring out what needs to be done to solve the problem. If you're not one of them, Managed Wi-Fi could be your easy alternative.

Managed Wi-Fi is a service which takes the hassles of Wi-Fi troubleshooting (and more) off your hands in exchange for a minimal monthly fee. Once you sign up for Managed Wi-Fi, Huxley Communications will handle a variety of Wi-Fi tasks for you at no additional cost:

- Installation of an up-to-date router with the latest wireless technology including Wi-Fi 6
- Selection of the best router location in your home for optimal coverage and signal strength
- Setup of your Wi-Fi security password to avoid others using your Wi-Fi network without your permission
- Connection of your devices — such as laptops, tablets, phones, and printer — to the Wi-Fi network
- Remote or in-home troubleshooting should the Wi-Fi service stop working or function poorly
- Repair or replacement of the Wi-Fi router when needed
- An app with parental controls, network security, and remote device monitoring

If you don't have Managed Wi-Fi and need in-home help with a router you purchased on your own, you'll have to pay the hourly fee for a service call by one of our technicians. This can get pricey if you end up with a series of Wi-Fi issues.

It all comes down to this: Using your devices on a fast and reliable home Wi-Fi network is lots of fun. But doing the work of Wi-Fi setup and troubleshooting — not so much. Why not let somebody else handle Wi-Fi?

Huxley Communications offers Managed Wi-Fi for just \$10/month. To learn more about this service and sign up, call 515-597-2281.

Before You Dig, Call 811

All sorts of utility lines, pipes, and cables could be buried on your property and easily damaged by even shallow digging. This can result in service interruptions to your entire neighborhood. Before you dig, call 811 to have utility lines marked.

Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications

Lifeline is a federal program to help low-income subscribers stay connected by providing a monthly discount of \$7.25 on their wireline phone, wireless phone, or \$9.25 on broadband service. Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in at least one of the assistance programs listed below:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

You can check eligibility with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at www.lifelinesupport.org. Or call Huxley Communications at 515-597-2281.

Feel Free to Check Out These Free Streaming Services

When you think of streaming services, the first names to come to mind might be Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu. While these services offer hundreds of titles — including recent releases and original movies and TV series — they require you to pay a monthly fee. If you're watching your pennies but still want to watch great entertainment, consider free streaming services.

Keep in mind, however, that there are downsides. Most of these free streaming services are supported by ads, provide only regular HD video (not 4K), and will lack the selection of titles offered by paid streaming services.

Here are some popular options to consider:

Crackle (crackle.com) hosts a library of mainstream titles, including popular older TV shows and movies. Crackle has also been developing some of its own content.

Hoopla (hoopladigital.com) can be your ticket to free movies and more if you have a library card and your local library participates in this system. To get started, go to the site, create an account, then find your local library.

IMDb TV (imdb.com/tv) is Amazon's free, ad-supported streaming service powered by the IMDb movie and TV show database. It focuses on older movies and TV shows, plus IMDb programs such as celebrity interviews, documentaries, and coverage of film festivals and award shows.

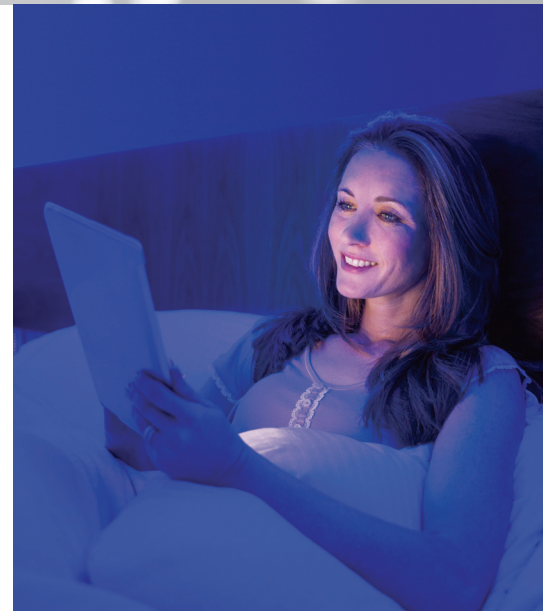
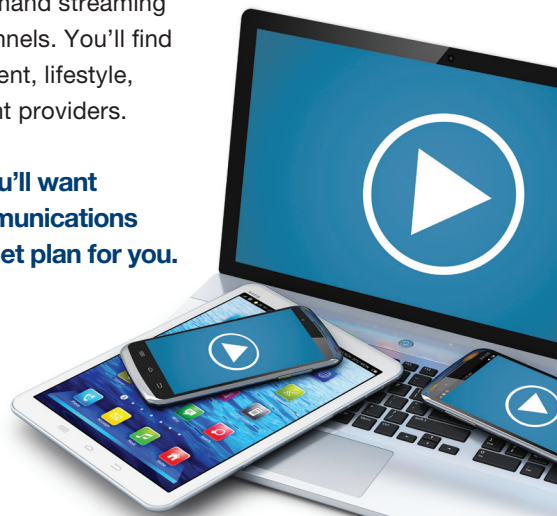
Pluto TV (pluto.tv/on-demand) offers an impressive collection of modern movies and earlier-era classics as well as popular TV series.

Tubi TV (tubitv.com) has more than 12,000 titles, including selections from the libraries of Lionsgate, MGM, and Paramount Pictures, as well as Starz Digital.

Vudu (vudu.com) features a rotating collection of hundreds of popular old movies and TV shows. To access the free content, you need a Vudu account, but you don't have to provide payment information.

XUMO (xumo.com) offers live and on-demand streaming entertainment with over 190 different channels. You'll find options across a wide array of entertainment, lifestyle, news, pop culture, and technology content providers.

For the best streaming experience, you'll want high-speed internet. Call Huxley Communications at 515-597-2281 to find the right internet plan for you.



Top 3 Advantages of Streaming Services

Compared to traditional TV plans like satellite or cable, streaming services offer many advantages including these:

- 1. Cost Savings** – Using streaming services usually ends up costing less than paying for satellite or cable TV. Hulu Plus, Netflix, and Amazon each cost only about \$10 a month, and many offer a free trial month so you can test out the service to see if it meets your needs.
- 2. Bigger Variety of Content** – Streaming services maintain huge libraries of TV shows and movies you can enjoy whenever you want. Binge-watch shows, pick any movie of your choice, or spend an entire weekend watching documentaries if you want.
- 3. Less Mindless TV Viewing** – Instead of turning on the TV to watch whatever is on or engage in aimless channel surfing, users of streaming service tend to turn it on to intentionally watch a specific show or movie. This can lead to less time being a couch potato and more time being active.

An essential companion to streaming services is a fast and reliable internet connection. For the latest on our internet speeds and pricing, call 515-597-2281.