

## Looking for the Internet Plan That's Just Right for You?

Like Goldilocks in the fairy tale—who tried to find the bowl of porridge, chair, and bed that were just right for her—you may be looking for the internet plan with speeds that are just right for your household. You don't want a plan that's too slow, which can cause frustrations such as buffering while streaming. And you don't want one that's too fast, since there's no point in spending more per month than necessary.

To figure out which internet plan will work best for you, start by reviewing these general industry guidelines:

- For only basic internet usage, such as checking email and web browsing, our Elite Plus package will be sufficient.
- Internet speeds in the 100–200 Mbps range are ideal for most households since they can handle common uses like streaming and video chat for 2–5 users at once. Consider our Advanced Plus or Premium Plus internet plans. These are our most popular and suffice for nearly every home.
- Some households may require internet speeds in the 300 Mbps—1,000 Mbps range if the family is large and/or includes people who regularly work from home or are into competitive online gaming. Subscribing to our Ultra Plus internet service is perfect for a very active home. Ultra Plus also comes with Expert Wi-Fi, Experience IQ, and Protect IQ for no additional cost.

Your “Goldilocks” internet plan will be the one that provides everyone in your household with a good online experience while staying within your budget. Ask yourself these questions to help determine your specific needs:

- How many devices in your home are typically connected to the internet and in use simultaneously?
- How often are family members watching movies and series on streaming services? Is buffering a problem?
- Are there gamers in your household that have issues with reaction time and lags?
- Does anyone in your household regularly send large files for work, participate in video conferences, or use an online backup or cloud storage service?
- Do you hear complaints about your current internet plan from family members? Do speeds slow down when you also have guests using your network?

**Once you've thought about these factors, call Huxley Communications at 515-597-2281. One of our Customer Care Representatives can help you choose the internet plan that's just right for you. Tell them Goldilocks sent you.**

### HUXLEY HAPPENINGS



**Thursday, November 25**

**Friday, November 26**

Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

**Thursday, December 23**

**Friday, December 24**

Christmas Holiday – Office Closed

**Monday, January 3**

New Year's Holiday – Office Closed

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Huxley Communications

P.O. Box 36 • Huxley, IA 50124

515-597-2281 or 800-231-4922

[www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net)

[huxtel@huxcomm.net](mailto: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*

## FALL 2021



## Everything's Easier With a Local Business

There are many community-centered reasons to buy local whenever possible. For example, when you choose to buy products or services from a local business, you're supporting a local employer and helping to boost the local economy. You're also enabling unique independent businesses to keep going, which is important since they add personality and appeal to the community.

In addition, there are other easy-to-appreciate reasons to buy local. When you choose a local business, it's:

- **Easier to talk to a human being.** Your call won't be transferred to a faraway place. Instead, it will be answered by a local employee.
- **Easier to get responsive customer service.** You can count on being treated well whenever there's an issue to resolve.
- **Easier to enjoy the shopping experience.** It is more fun to do business with a local owner or manager who clearly has a passion for what they do!

**Huxley Communications encourages you to buy local and thanks you for choosing us, the local communications provider.**

# What's a Guest Wi-Fi Network and Why Do You Need One?

If your Wi-Fi network is not properly secured, it leaves you vulnerable to a variety of security threats. Determined hackers can use your internet service for free, introduce malware onto your devices, and steal your personal data. It's even possible for a hacker to hijack your Wi-Fi router and use it, along with thousands of other hacked routers, to launch a large-scale cyberattack. Fortunately, these threats can usually be addressed by using the right type of Wi-Fi security (the WPA2 security protocol), setting a strong Wi-Fi password, and changing it every few months.

But there's another type of threat to your Wi-Fi network—your house guests. If your network isn't set up correctly, visitors who access your Wi-Fi network may unknowingly pose a potential security risk to your devices and data. Here's how: Let's say you have a dozen devices in your home connected to your Wi-Fi network at any given time with a portable USB hard drive plugged into your router to share files with other family members. Whenever a guest logs into your primary Wi-Fi network, they'll also have access to every one of these devices. If a guest's smartphone or tablet is infected with some sort of malware, it could be spread to other devices connected to your network.

Fortunately, there's a simple way to address this threat. Our Expert Wi-Fi service gives you the ability to create a guest Wi-Fi network. Unlike your regular Wi-Fi network that you and your family members use, the guest Wi-Fi network restricts what your guests can do in your network. Specifically, it gives visitors access to your internet connection and nothing else. They can't see any of your devices on the network and don't have the ability to access them. Most importantly, they can't accidentally introduce malware or compromise your devices or data in any other way.



With a guest Wi-Fi network, anyone looking to connect to your Wi-Fi will see your primary Wi-Fi network name as well as your guest network name. For example, if your primary network is called "MyWiFi," your guest network might be called "MyWiFi-guest." Each network has a separate strong password. The primary network's password is shared only with family. When a guest asks you for your Wi-Fi password, you simply give them the guest Wi-Fi password and ask them to connect to "MyWiFi-guest." Once they're connected, guests can go online without you having to worry about any security threats.

**For more information on Expert Wi-Fi, please visit [www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net) or call 515-597-2281.**

# 5 Ways to Repurpose Your Old Phone



When it's time to get a bright and shiny new phone, what will you do with your old one? You may decide to trade it in with your cellular carrier, give it to a family member, sell it online, or take it to an electronics recycling organization.

But those aren't your only options. Check out these great uses for old phones:

## #1: Security Camera

Download a security camera app like AlfredCamera or Presence on your old and new phones, then mount the old phone where you want to keep an eye on your home. You can use something as simple as a suction cup mount for a car. Then use your current phone to log in and view the feed from your old phone.

## #2: Digital Photo Frame

An old phone can easily be turned into a photo display. Simply get a phone stand and run your favorite photos through on a slideshow.

## #3: Child's Device

If you're not yet ready to buy your child his/her own phone with a cellular plan, you can instead repurpose your old phone for more limited use. You don't need cellular connectivity for the camera to work. Once the phone is secure, connect it to Wi-Fi and your child can send pics, search the internet, download apps, make VoIP calls, and play games.

## #4: Gaming System

There are many different mobile games for iPhone and Android, and you only need a Wi-Fi connection to download. If you have an extra phone lying around, repurpose it as a dedicated gaming system. That way, you'll never have to worry about storage space while you're in the heat of a battle or the middle of an adventure.

## #5: Donation to a Good Cause

If you don't have a use for your old phone, think about donating it. For example, Cell Phones for Soldiers sells refurbished or recycled phones to buy troops prepaid international calling cards and provide emergency funding to veterans. (They'll wipe your old phone clean of all your personal information first.) HopeLine from Verizon accepts devices in any condition from any service provider to benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence.

## Check Out These Live Webcams

Have a few minutes to kill? Visit [hdon tap.com](http://hdon tap.com). It lets you watch live webcams from around the world for free.

HDOnTap's founder, Tim Sears, presented one of the very first webcams on the web in late 1995, and started HDOnTap with his wife Tiffany Sears in 2011. Today, you can virtually visit many different places and see what's happening live, with no filter and no editing.

Here's a sampling of what's on the website:

- **Animals:** You can go wild and check out the activity of all kinds of animals—including elk, deer, bears, wolves, elephants, owls, eagles, and bats.
- **Picturesque Places:** From Roche Harbor, Washington to historic downtown Julian, California, the webcams take you on mini vacations without leaving home.
- **Beaches:** No sunscreen is needed to visit many California beaches as well as ones in Hawaii, Florida, Washington, Texas, and Mexico.

**While the Huxley Communications website doesn't have a webcam, it does have lots of helpful information about our communications services. Visit [www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net) today.**





# Have You Noticed that Millennials Don't Like Phone Calls?

If you have family members in their twenties or thirties, don't take it personally if they don't answer your phone calls. Millennials, those people born between 1982 and 2000, tend to despise using their smartphones to do the very thing they were first invented for, which is to talk (verbally) with other people.

This phenomenon, referred to as telephonophobia or telephobia, is essentially defined as the reluctance or fear of making or taking phone calls and interacting with others on the phone. Many millennials would rather communicate by text, email, instant messaging, or social media. They grew up in a digital age and have fully embraced these alternate forms of communication.

There are several common reasons given by millennials for avoiding phone calls, and topping that list is the belief that phone calls take up too much time. You have to go through the niceties of verbal conversation by making small talk and saying hello and goodbye, which can all be avoided with something like a quick text that sticks to the "nuts and bolts" of the message.

Phone calls are also seen by this demographic as potentially invasive and inconsiderate. If you text or email someone, they can respond whenever it's convenient for them. But if you call, they need to respond immediately.

Some people prefer written communication over phone calls because it gives them time to think through the wording of their messages. When emailing a work colleague, for example, you can carefully consider the content and make any necessary edits before sending. During a phone call, you don't have that luxury. You have to come up with immediate answers to questions, and as a result, some people feel more vulnerable and worry about saying the wrong thing.

While voice calls may not be the preference of many millennials, there are still plenty of people who believe that hearing the sound of someone's voice conveys more meaning and encourages more connection than other forms of communication.

**Huxley Communications offers a variety of phone services for those of you who like to talk. Call 515-597-2281 for details.**



## Get Ready for 10-Digit Dialing for Local Calls

In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted an order approving the designation of 988 as the 3-digit dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To facilitate implementation, area codes in 37 states where the 988 prefix is a working prefix and which now use 7-digit local dialing must switch to 10-digit local dialing. This includes our 515 area code.

Starting October 24, 2021, you'll be required to dial 10 digits — the 515 area code plus the 7-digit phone number — when making a local call. Failure to do so will prompt a recording, reminding you to redial using 10 digits.

In addition to changing your dialing routine, you'll also have to reprogram 7-digit local numbers to 10-digit numbers in any device that automatically makes calls for you, including:

- Speed dial feature on a phone
- Home security equipment
- Personal emergency response system

**For complete information from the FCC about 10-digit dialing, visit [www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing).**

