Tunnel Security

This is not a CalTrans article about highway safety -- it's about security between two ends of an Internet connection.

Many of our wireless customers first experience the speed and convenience of a full-time high-speed (broadband) connection at their office, and then begin to consider adding the same service for work from home. Or, the initial service is at home and the next step is to connect remotely to the office.

Either way, the next question is usually about security, and rightly so. How can the flow of data from one end to the other be kept private and secure?

It's done by setting up a dedicated and encrypted circuit between the end points, or what is called a "VPN" (virtual private network).

Consider this analogy – you're standing on a busy public street and a long black limousine zooms past, its darkened windows reflecting outside lights while revealing nothing of what is inside. Its path is dedicated from point of origin to destination, and the doors unlock and open only at each end.

Just as the limo drives public streets but keeps its contents private, a message sent via VPN travels over the public Internet, but is wrapped in encryption to keep its contents private. Only the

Light at each end and dark in between, the VPN path is often called a tunnel

originator and the specifically-designated recipient can see it in a clearly readable state – any attempt to eavesdrop enroute usually fails entirely, but otherwise gets nothing but scrambled garbage.

Since the dedicated path of a VPN message has "light" at each end and only "darkness" (encrypted obscurity) at all points in between, it is often called a VPN "tunnel."

In the past, private business communications were the privilege of only those largest corporations who could afford their own private networks. VPN technology now allows almost everyone with a computer and access to the Internet to send and receive data confidentially. VPNs are rapidly becoming an essential part of doing

WIRELESS SERVICE AREAS

Service is currently available in Porterville, Springville, Pleasant Valley, River Island, Globe Drive, Strathmore, Terra Bella, Lindsay, Exeter, and Visalia.

- OCSNET: **>610,000 VIRUSES STOPPED** (2,000+ daily)
- OCSNET: **>10.9 MILLION EMAIL SPAM BLOCKED** (32,000+ daily)
- Click **USER ADMIN** on our website to set account preferences

Year 21 In Review

One year ago, our January 2003 newsletter reported that our system had stopped over 200,000 viruses. That total is now well over 600,000, an increase of more than 400,000 – *double!* – in just one year.

But that's nothing compared to spam. A year ago our total was over 2 million -- now it's close to 11 million blocked spam messages, a whopping 350% one-year increase. On average, that's about 5,000 porn and other junk mail messages that did not get through to each and every subscriber in 2003. Families know what a relief that has been, and businesses can calculate their savings in time no longer spent sifting through piles of junk email.

In each of the past two years the number of OCS Wireless subscribers has more than doubled. To keep meeting this demand we added new tower sites in 2003, in Visalia and on Elephant Back

Tunnel Security

(continued from Side One) business over the Internet.

Note also that "message" in this context means all communication between two computers -- it is not limited to just email or attached documents, but also includes access to file folders, software application programs, network connections, databases, hard drives and printers, and anything else that's located on either of the two machines which are securely connected.

With remote connection software running over a VPN, you can securely manage a computer from home that's located inside your office network and behind the company firewall. Or from a branch office, or a laptop while on the road.

Extended VPN applications can permit sales teams in the field to check the company's internal inventory system, or to permit external vendors to view only those limited portions of the inventory for which they have supply responsibility.

In our local community, it is the combination of high-speed wireless service that reaches far beyond the city limits -- and VPN security -- that makes telework from home and branch office interconnectivity possible.

OACYS system engineers are experienced at VPN construction and all of the related network, firewall, and security issues. Please contact our office for more information:

Phone 559 781 4123
info@oacys.com

Year 21 In Review

(continued from Side One) Hill in Lindsay. Two-to-three new towers are planned in 2004, increasing overall coverage to more than 1,000 square miles.

Perhaps more than anything else, 2003 became the "Year of the Network" -- again. At OCS we began networking in 1985, starting with our own office. The industry magazines at the time, always looking for a headline, attempted to herald each of the next several years as certain to see the acceptance, at long last, of office networking. Novell and AT&T and Windows all grappled for this new market, but it took until the end of the decade to finally became reality.

After pioneering local Internet service in 1995, we at OCS began to predict that home networking would eventually become common. We may as well have been talking to a brick wall in those days, for all the blank stares this forecast met -- but broadband has finally made it come true.

Nearly every request we receive for wireless service is now combined with a question about networking, without regard to whether it's for office or home. And increasingly, even those smaller internal (or "local area") networks are also "going wireless" to take advantage of the arrival of powerful and affordable laptops.

We've all come a very long way. We couldn't have done it without such a terrific team at OCS, or without so many loyal and supportive long-time customers. Our thanks and heartfelt appreciation are extended to all, and we'd like to wish everyone a healthy, prosperous, and very Happy New Year in 2004.

NATIONWIDE OCS SERVICE for
FRIENDS • FAMILY • BUSINESS

With over 2,500 free local access numbers across the country, you can keep quality OCS dialup service when you travel or even if you move. Or recommend it to your friends, family, and business associates across the country and earn referral credits at the same time!

To check for available numbers in different areas of the country, just click "Nationwide Numbers" or "Access Numbers" on our website. New accounts may sign up using the handy "Subscribe Online" procedure on our home page. Call us for more information!

OACYS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Current at December 2003

Plan Name	Radio Frequency	Rated Speed	Mailboxes/ Webspace	One-Time Fees			Monthly Service
				Service Activation	Install/ Configure	Equipment Deposit	
DIAL-UP	-	53 Kb/s	5/5MB*	25.00	-	-	**24.95**
WIRELESS							
24 Basic	2.4 GHz	750 Kb/s	5/5MB*	25.00	100.00	200.00	**49.95**
24 Premium	2.4 GHz	1.5 Mb/s	5/5MB*	25.00	100.00	200.00	**79.95**
24 Business	2.4 GHz	2.25 Mb/s	10/10MB	25.00	100.00	200.00	**129.95**
58 Business	5.8 GHz	3 Mb/s	25/25MB	25.00	200.00	500.00	**159.95**
58 Corporate	5.8 GHz	4 Mb/s	30/30MB	25.00	200.00	500.00	**199.95**
58 Enterprise	5.8 GHz	5 Mb/s	40/40MB	25.00	200.00	500.00	**249.95**

HI-CAP   OCS can provision ISDN, fractional frame, and dedicated T1 circuits, call for more information and specific pricing.

Notes

Locations beyond 5 miles add $10 per month. All plans include automated central email virus scanning, email spam filtering, and website parental controls. (*Denotes webspace for personal use only.) Wireless 24 Premium Plan and all higher plans include supplementary dialup account. Wireless installation and deposit package may be paid in three installments upon request. All plans terminate at OACYS Porterville headquarters and transport to the Internet via dual T3s over dedicated OC12 fiber optic circuit. This is not a quote, all information is subject to change without notice. This document supercedes previous versions. Please check with our office for additional detail regarding any of our Internet service plans.

I Didn't Know That!

OCS provides "A-to-Z" computer technology services:

• Complete computer service and repair shop

• Broad variety of Internet access plans and packages

• Professional website design, development, and hosting

• Professional programming and custom application development

• eCommerce and business groupware solutions

• Computer and Internet technology consulting

• Secure branch office inter-networking

• Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services

• iSuite of online utility applications

767 NORTH PORTER ROAD • PORTERVILLE CA 93257 • 559-781-4123 • WWW.PORTERVILLE.COM