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SERVICES

NETWORKING THE  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1982

N E W S L E T T E R F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 4

## Viruses in the News

Several days after it began on January 26th, "the MyDoom e-mail virus outbreak continued to roar, showing a tenacity that surprised even the most battle hardened security experts. Although many corporations have been cleaning up their computer systems and avoiding reinfection, average home users were still succumbing and small companies were awash in floods of infected e-mail."

That news was reported in the Wall Street Journal, just as it was covered in all the nation's major newspapers and media networks.

As of the 30th, just 4 days later, the OACYS central virus scanner had blocked nearly 9,000 messages infected with the MyDoom virus from entering our network or passing on to our subscribers. This underscores the sentry work done by our system, which has stopped more than 650,000 viruses from entering our community in the past three years.

OACYS Central Virus Scanning is free to all of our subscribers. It does not need to be activated, it is "always on" for both incoming and outgoing mail, and it updates automatically to remain current with the latest outbreaks.

## How to Activate Spam Filtering

We are frequently surprised to learn that we have subscribers who are unaware of our spam filtering options, even though they may be receiving so much junk every day that eMail is no longer useful.

Like our virus protection, spam filtering is also free. However, unlike virus blocking, spam filtering is optional – we don't presume to decide what is spam for one but not another, so this feature is set to "off" by default.

To activate spam filtering, click Subscribers>UserAdmin on our home page, then select the mailboxes you want to filter under "Email Addresses." You'll need your master account login name and password – if forgotten simply call our office and we'll help you with verification.

Then set your spam filtering preference to Tag or Quarantine, select a reporting option, and Save – that's all there is to it. You'll be amazed to find that email is actually usable again.

## Dialup Acceleration for Macs

Dialup acceleration can improve the speed of basic modem dialup service dramatically, from a typical 2-5X improvement to sometimes even more. In addition to Windows machines, this option is now available for Macintosh computers running OSX. Click the icon on our home page, or call our office for more information.

### WIRELESS SERVICE AREAS

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

- OCSNET: >650,000 VIRUSES STOPPED (2,000+ daily)
- OCSNET: >11.9 MILLION EMAIL SPAM BLOCKED (34,000+ daily)
- Click **USER ADMIN** on our website to set account preferences

## Double Virus Protection

Email for OCS subscribers is scanned for viruses automatically. So how could your home computer – or your office computer or the network it's connected to – still be infected?

Possibly by retrieving mail from an outside source that does not scan for viruses, or by accessing a website that contains malicious scripting code, or by using a CD or diskette that's infected.

Also, every new virus must first be discovered and analyzed before the "serum" to block it is developed and distributed, which creates an initial window of opportunity. This period is usually brief, but it nevertheless means that a new virus can potentially slip past scanning systems without being detected.

For all of these reasons it is highly recommended that you run an anti-virus program on your home and office computers. Products that do this are available from Norton, McAfee, Trend Micro, and others.

Or, we can plug you into the same system we use internally at OCS, which protects all of our networked computers automatically, both at office and home. Click "OCS OfficeScan" on our home page for more information.

OCS dialup and wireless plans are described at [www.porterville.com](http://www.porterville.com)

Internet Plans and Pricing

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Want to work from home?

OCS can connect your home to your office or tie multiple offices together, at high speed and with full "VPN" security, anywhere in the Valley or beyond...

Need qualified computer or network maintenance?  
Give us a call!

SUPPORT OUR MILITARY



### THE NATIONWIDE OCS REFERRAL PROGRAM

If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! Some restrictions apply, click *Referrals* on our home page for details. Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to sign up online, now from anywhere in the country!



## What's a Firewall?

In terms of the Internet, a firewall is something like the security gate in a private building. All visitors must pass through that checkpoint, permission to enter secure areas requires proper identification, and you must check out on departure.

All traffic over the Internet flows in the form of small bundles of data called "packets," each of which carries precise identification. If a firewall is installed between a computer or office network and its connection to the Internet, traffic must flow through that checkpoint.

The firewall's job is to check each packet and compare its credentials against a list of authorized visitors. Some may be granted full access to what's on the other side, some may be granted limited and very specific access only, and those not on the list may be denied access entirely.

Similarly, outgoing traffic may be either allowed to exit freely or might be restricted from travel to designated locations elsewhere on the Internet (this is how the OCS Parental Web Control system works).

In summary, a firewall is essentially what keeps the rest of the world out of your computer. The risk is relatively small for dialup users, who are connected for short periods of time and are typically assigned a different "address" each session. For broadband users and office networks that are "always on" and often have a permanent Internet address, the importance of firewall protection cannot be overstated.

Please contact our office for more information about firewalls, VPN tunnels, branch office connectivity, and other issues relating to Internet security.



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 with free virus blocking, spam filtering, and parental web controls 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, click Internet Plans > Access Numbers on our home page. New accounts may sign up using the handy "Subscribe Online" procedure. Call us for more information!

## OACYS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Current at February 2004

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

**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 supersedes 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