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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016
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Is your web browser up to date?

- It's important to maintain online security
- Plug-ins are going away

Whether it's used to look up information, for maps and directions, watching videos, social networking, shopping, gaming, following the news, web mail, work or school, the web browser is easily *the* universal online application.



Hackers of course know that, and they are relentless in their attempts to find vulnerabilities through which to access private information.

Likewise, browser developers are constantly responding to fix these vulnerabilities and to make their products more secure. Features such as Java and Flash have long been used to add functionality to web browsers, typically as plug-ins provided by third party developers like Oracle, Adobe and many others.

However, more "cooks in the kitchen" means more different pieces of software that have to keep working together, which creates more potential for bugs that hackers can exploit.

The range and variety of constant updates can be daunting to manage. Is your browser current, but the Java plug-in is not? What about Flash? Or vice versa? Plug-ins are a primary reason for performance problems, crashes and security issues.

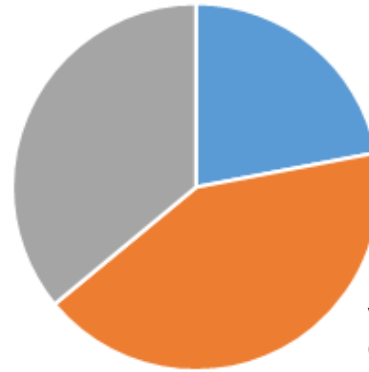
In particular, Java and Flash have become common sources of hacker intrusion, and it is now widely recommended that users should avoid using them whenever possible – many websites no longer require those utilities to provide the same functionality.

At the same time, to tighten control over security, the latest browser versions are either limiting or are no

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Internet Usage by Activity

Other
36%
(includes email, search, commerce)



Social Networking
22%

Viewing Content
42%

Sources:
Pew, Nielsen

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Is your web browser up to date?

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longer supporting third-party extensions and plug-ins. This includes Edge (the new browser in Windows 10), Firefox, Chrome and Safari.

It's important to keep your browser current with the latest version, especially if you're still using an older browser or operating system. All newer browsers can be set to check for updates and apply them automatically.

In older browsers, it is also recommended that you consider disabling support for Java, Flash, Silverlight, Shockwave, ActiveX and anything else you don't really need (this is done through the browser's settings).

But how do you know what you really need? Some videos won't run without Flash, and many games require Java or ActiveX. Firefox and Microsoft Explorer have options to prompt you when a plug-in is required, which you can then allow or disallow selectively.

Microsoft's new Edge browser drops support for all of these external plug-ins. However some features are integrated into the browser for legacy support, while significantly improving security. For example, Flash is built-in and is kept current with automatic browser updates (Edge will only run on Windows 10 systems).

These are the new realities. It is no longer adequate to just keep plugging along, happy that what you have still works and that's good enough.

It's sort of like vehicle recalls. If you ignore them your safety could be compromised, and in the matter of online security it makes no sense to allow your software to fall behind.

If you have questions or need help, please contact us at the office, (559) 781-4123.

Remember!!! The new OACYS Bandwidth Prioritization System **eliminates** excess usage surcharges ... tell your friends and neighbors!

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	Download	Upload			Installation	Monthly Service
			(Note 1)		All Plans	
RESIDENTIAL						
Basic	1.5M	768K	20GB	5	100.00	49.95
Premium	3M	1.5M	40GB	10		79.95
PremiumPlus	5M	2M	60GB	10		99.95
BUSINESS						
Business	3.5M	3.5M	60GB	20		129.95
Professional	4.5M	4.5M	70GB	25		159.95
Corporate	6M	6M	90GB	30		199.95
Enterprise	8M	8M	120GB	40		249.95
MOUNTAINS						
			(Note 2)			
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek						
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	1.5M	768K	20GB	5		69.95

(1) Guidelines are the recommended bandwidth usage per month. There is no charge for excess usage, but prioritization may apply during periods of peak overall usage.
 (2) Add \$10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.

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