October ICN News and Updates

Check out the monthly newsletter of the Iowa Communications Network.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, customer updates, read the latest broadband news, and more!

Cybersecurity

[Want to Be Cybersmart? Follow These 7 Security Tips During NCSAM and Beyond](#)

We may not realize it initially, but as we enjoy the convenience of accessing our data over the World Wide Web, we consequently cultivate a greater digital footprint that could potentially be exploited by cybercriminals.
Source: National Cybersecurity Alliance

[101 Data Protection Tips: How to Keep Your Passwords, Financial & Personal Information Safe in 2020](#)

We all have a role to play in ensuring our interconnected world will be safer and more resilient for everyone. Empower your friends, colleagues and family to Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart
Source: Digital Guardian

[#PROTECT2020 Rumor VS. Reality](#)

This is also the perfect time for adversaries to create chaos by spreading bogus claims or overstating activity. Get the facts on election security.
Source: Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

[National Guard to Monitor Cybersecurity During Elections](#)

To protect voters and the election process in a fraught year, at least three Washington counties will have some sort of security presence at ballot drop boxes or elections offices at points during the voting period.
Source: National Cyber Security News Today

[Pandemic Brings Rise in Cyberattacks Across the Globe](#)

Many institutions, municipalities and individuals have been upended by cyberattacks during the past several months in the U.S. as well as other regions around the globe.
Source: Government Technology

Digital Divide

[State awards $4.3 million to 43 campuses to aid 'internet connectivity for students'](#)

The money is from the CARES Act to help colleges and universities overcome barriers associated

with online and remote learning this academic year.
Source: The Gazette

[Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability 004](#)
Up to $4,950,000 for broadband expansion in Iowa. The Application Acceptance Window is now
open through November 22, 2020 at 5:00 PM CST.
Source: Iowa OCIO

[ReConnect Program Announces $158M in Broadband Awards](#)
Highlighted projects include include grants and loans in Appanoose, Davis, Taylor, Page, Howard
and Chickasaw counties.
Source: Telecompetitor

[Texas Schools Partner With SpaceX on High-Speed Internet](#)
Ector County ISD became the first school district in the nation to partner with SpaceX to provide
broadband service to families with poor or no internet access.
Source: Government Technology

Education

[Community Anchor Program Announces New Distance Learning Scholarship Program](#)
Teachers at schools connected to the ICN Network: Apply today for a scholarship that will allow K-12
teachers at ICN connected schools to take their class on a virtual "field trip."
Last day to apply is Nov. 20!
Source: Internet2

[Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund application process now open](#)
Professional development to prepare Iowa teachers to teach computer science, engage teachers
who are new to computer science and encourage innovation.
Source: Iowa Dept of Education

[Schools Need an Education-Specific Video Conferencing Tool](#)
There are real opportunities for video conferencing to improve and better support effective classroom
instruction.
Source: Center for Digital Education

[Teachers Offer Virtual Learning Tips for Parents, Students](#)
For many schools nationwide, virtual education has allowed learning to continue amid the COVID-19
pandemic. But for some, remote learning adds an extra layer of difficulty.
Source: Center for Digital Education

[States invest in datacasting to bridge the K-12 digital divide](#)
The tech would allow students to receive instructional content in remote areas without internet and
comes encrypted for data security.
Source: Education Dive

Government

[Iowa Secretary of State Office partners with cybersecurity firm for election security](#)
Iowa's Secretary of State Paul Pate announced that his office has partnered with a cybersecurity firm
to help provide election cybersecurity.
Source: KCAU-TV

[Iowa County Launches Election Information App for Voters](#)
Woodbury Co Auditor and commissioner of elections announced that the "WhereUVoteIA —
Woodbury County" app is available for free download in both the Apple and Android app stores.
Source: Government Technology

[More County Governments Are Using Chatbots — Here's How](#)
The idea is that chatbots, which typically use some form of AI algorithm, can handle common questions and leave less common or more complicated questions for human staff to answer.
Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[United Airlines tests COVID-19 'health pass' app to bring back global travel](#)
The app was developed to enable travelers to share their COVID-19 test status across borders and languages using a trusted framework.
Source: Fierce Health

[New mHealth App Identifies Stroke Signs Through Speech, Facial Movements](#)
Researchers say the mHealth app, which uses AI technology, is as accurate in identifying stroke symptoms as an ER doctor using a CT scan.
Source: mHealth Intelligence

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network
providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) to
Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.