Broadband News
FROM AROUND THE WEB

A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the Iowa Communications Network

2020 tech transformation: Year in review

Tech companies provided essential services during the pandemic before facing unprecedented antitrust scrutiny.

Source: Fox News

ICN News & Updates

Check out the December ICN News and Updates

- Protection from Security Threats
- ICN Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report
- FCC awards over $140 Million to Iowa Broadband Providers
- K-12 Education Announcements:
    - Funding Year 2021 Window Opens on Jan 15, 2021
    - FCC Releases FY2021 Eligible Services List

Cybersecurity

Security Awareness Episode 7: Internet Downloads
Adobe, the National Cyber Security Alliance, and Speechless have partnered to bring you a series of security awareness videos.
Source: National Cybersecurity Alliance

What are the risks associated with mobile device apps?
#BeCyberSmart and make sure your downloads are safe and secure, protecting your personal information!
Source: Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

The Most Festive Cyber Challenge of the Year Ends January 4
The SANS Holiday Hack Challenge is full of fun challenges, it's highly interactive, there are playlists and prizes, it runs for a month over the holidays, and it's free!
Source: SANS Institute

FTC data show gift cards remain scammers' favorite payment method.
Agency to roll out new materials for retailers to help combat gift card scams.
Source: Federal Trade Commission

What Every Leader Needs to Know About the Ongoing APT (advanced persistent threat) Cyber Activity

CISA is tracking a significant cyber incident impacting enterprise networks across federal, state, and local governments, as well as critical infrastructure entities and private sector organizations.
Source: Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

Digital Divide

AT&T has made a $10 million commitment to help close the homework gap
As part of ATT's $10M commitment to close the homework gap, they're teaming up with Connected Nation to keep students connected to learning.
Source: Connected Nation

Fiber internet expansion project underway in Mills County
Western Iowa Networks, has been working on its latest project to expand fiber optic internet to unserved and underserved broadband homes.
Source: KMA Broadcasting

Illinois Launches Statewide Network to Provide Devices to Low-Income Residents
Illinois has launched the Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network, which is intended to expand digital access for low-income households throughout the state.
Source: MeriTalk

Broadband Lessons Learned in 2020
To reach our goal of universal broadband, we need a comprehensive plan based on the following critical building blocks
Source: Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

Education

8 Tips for Gearing Up to Teach STEM
You may be a first-time STEM teacher, or perhaps you're an experienced STEM teacher eager to add new energy and pizazz to your lessons. In either case it's time to roll up your sleeves and dive in to learning, planning, and preparing. I'm guessing that one question you have is: How can I plan and organize to make my STEM classes successful?
Source: Defined Learning

A look at the past 20 years: How has technology changed education?
"It's up to us to adapt to [tech] changes and to... provide a quality education and with opportunities to make a difference in the community and create careers."
Source: Hickory Record

Government

Iowa House leader says pandemic has highlighted critical IT issues
Just like roads and bridges, broadband is part of the state's critical infrastructure and it makes sense to have a committee working on information technology issues.
Source: Radio Iowa

Swift Shift to Telework Proves Public-Sector's Agility
Many public leaders believed that the people's business could not be done from outside the walls of government buildings, but COVID-19 showed government can function from anywhere.
Source: Government Technology

Congress Appropriates $7 Billion to Fund Broadband Initiatives
The Act includes $7 billion in appropriations to fund broadband initiatives. Read for more details.
Source: JD Supra

Biden Reveals White House Digital Team
12 new appointees who will comprise the White House Office of Digital Strategy and will be in charge

of communicating with Americans once Biden takes office on Jan. 20.
Source: Route Fifty

Healthcare

Introducing Personalized Telehealth Services to Provide Peace of Mind for Travellers
Now airlines can offer customers peace of mind while travelling, giving them 24x7 access to doctors and nurses during their trip.
Source: Guestlogix

Trump, Congress Give New Life to FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program
The relief bill includes $250 million for the Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program, which was shut down in July after exhausting its budget.
Source: mHealth Intelligence

Public Safety

New Orleans Deploys Video Chat Option for 911 Callers
Those having emergencies can now talk to first responders by video when they call or text 911, thanks to a program city officials say will be a big help for people in crisis.
Source: Government Technology

Technology

Farming is focused on being smarter and more automated
John Deere's Nancy Post discusses helping farmers improve efficiency and output with advanced technologies like AI, machine learning and one day, 5G.
Source: RCR Wireless

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.