



PRESS FRELEASE

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To: Business & Technology Editor

Date: 10/7/2005

Regarding: Internet Outages Hurt Businesses in Lincoln and Omaha, NE

Comments:

The information contained in this media fax is intended for immediate release. You may directly quote any or all of the materials contained within this document.

For additional information, or to conduct an interview, you may also contact Thor Schrock, a local computer security expert and owner of Schrock Innovations. His phone number is (402) 502-1071 and his cellular number is (402) 212-5393. You can also email him directly at tschrock@schrockinnovations.com.

Schrock Innovations has been voted the #1 Independent Computer Repair Company in Lincoln and in Omaha (KFOR Best of Lincoln Survey 2003, 2004 & Omaha Magazine Best of Omaha 2005). Schrock Innovations provides New computers, computer repair services, and complimentary computer consulting.

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Press Release

Feud Between Internet Backbone Companies Impacts
Lincoln & Omaha Businesses, consumers

Random Internet Blackouts Likely to Continue

Lincoln, NE – October 7, 2005: A feud that erupted yesterday between the Internet's two largest backbone service providers is beginning to impact companies large and small, including those located in Nebraska.

Level 3 Communications and Cogent Communications are responsible for the majority of the US internet connectivity. The two companies sell access to the internet to companies like AOL and Hewlett Packard, who then use the connectivity for their own purposes, or resell it as internet access to consumers. Until last Wednesday, the two companies had a peering agreement that allowed them to access each other's networks at no cost.

After 90 days notice to Cogent, Level 3 discarded that agreement and demanded payment from Cogent in exchange for access. Cogent refused, and the resulting standoff is causing major headaches all over the world.

Or example, America Online subscribes users to its Internet Services through a free online sign up process. As a result of this blackout, AOL is unable to sign up new customers in Lincoln. Additionally, websites such as www.foxnews.com can only be reached for access sporadically.

Schrock Innovations, Inc., a local computer repair company in Lincoln and Omaha, has been taking calls all day from customers who are unable to stay logged into instant messenger programs, send or receive email, or access certain websites.

“The Internet is designed to reroute electronic traffic in the event of a breakdown such as this, Thor Schrock, Owner of Schrock Innovations said. “But these two companies moved so much traffic the alternate routes can not support the load.”

This disruption of a direct route for Internet traffic between the two companies will make it difficult for some businesses to update their websites and distribute their products and services. It can even render basic communications like instant messenger programs impotent and prevent email messages from reaching their destinations. Schrock likened the problem to having I-80 and Highway 6 closed on a Saturday with a Husker home game in Lincoln.

“Some People sporadically get through, and some people simply don’t make it. Until more re-routing capacity is available, or these two companies work out their differences, this is how the Internet will be for quite a while.”

Schrock added that there is nothing a business or home user can do to resolve any problems resulting from an Internet disruption of this caliber. Time Warner customers as well as Alltel DSL customers in Lincoln are taking the brunt of the blow while Cox Communications and Qwest users in Omaha are having fewer problems.

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