

## Outlaws & Firewalls

About one hundred years ago, say around the 1900's, people knew who the bad guys were. They were outlaws. They rode into your town, wearing black, robbed your bank and ran. Town folks put together a posse and chased them. Oh for the good ole days! Today's outlaws are more creative in their labels. We know them as worms, virus, Trojan horse, spies and zombies and instead of robbing towns they rob computers.

A worm is a program that sneaks into your computer and causes damage. A virus is a corrupted file that you unknowingly download onto your PC. Trojan horses are files that appear to be legitimate files, but are very malicious once the door is opened. There are several different ways these bad boys get into your system, but they most often come in through your email. Spyware collects information about internet use and then uses that information to target the end user with spam. They also look for personal information, login names and passwords then forward the information to another server or mail account. Zombies are actually other computers that scan the internet looking for susceptible victims, which may be other computers or networks. We now have cyberwar going on between computers, but stealing is still the game. So how do today's town folk protect themselves from becoming victims of cyberspace robbery?

Have no fear. The good guys are fighting back. The Internet is the largest consumer driven entity of our time. That means people using this utility actually have a say through our actions about what's acceptable and what's not going to be tolerated. Firewalls are the new posesses. Firewalls act as a buffer between your wireless network and the outside world. They are a basic security precaution that controls what connections are made into and out of your network. There are a couple of ways to protect you, using firewalls. A firewall is a piece of hardware equipment known as a broadband router or a software program specifically designed to alert and protect end users.

## Three New WISP

owners have joined the Wavelinx family in the past year making this an exciting year. We would like to welcome Grandlinx, Goldsby and Remedy.

Grandlinx is owned by Dick and Judy Segress, who trace their roots back to the Terral Telephone Company, and Ken and Florene Doughty, owners of the Hinton Telephone Company. This WISP provides Internet access to homes, marinas and boats in the Grand Lake area of our state. Terral Telephone opened its doors in 1906; Grandlinx opened its doors on Saturday May 29, 2004. The owners celebrated with a hot dog cookout complete with chips and balloons. Larry Hestand with Radio 96.1 broadcast the festivities and provided interviews with Grandlinx employees and visitors every hour on the hour.

Not only does I-35 connect Goldsby, Oklahoma to the rest of the state but Wavelinx has now connected the small community south of Norman to the rest of the planet. Goldsby joined the Wavelinx family in 2004. Their project is an exciting concept in that it allows local government to provide Internet service to its community. This alternate approach allows revenue to be generated by city government and stay within the community. The city erected their own tower and handles their own customers and billing. Wavelinx provides them with the engineering backbone and technical support to deliver high speed wireless Internet access.

The new kid on the block for Wavelinx is Remedy. Privately owned by Sally Holmes and Brandon Holmes, this WISP has two towers, one in the Deer Creek area and one in downtown Piedmont. The system has been up and running since the middle of January 2005. This is an exciting area because its personality stretches from our state's earliest history to its newest residents. The Piedmont town site was originally homesteaded by Mr. James Dean in the 1889 land run. By 1909 Piedmont incorporated and has been growing, as their history on the Piedmont website says, "a hop, skip and jump" northwest of Oklahoma City ever since. \_

Broadband wireless routers are available at nearly every retail store selling computer accessories. For example, Best Buy, CompUSA, Staples and Circuit City carry wireless routers and often offer rebates to bring the price down. Online Dell Computers offers a broad range as well. The router will have to be configured for your home network system to enable it to communicate with the Wavelinx system. Fees vary depending on the retailer, however, Wavelinx offers a plan that provides a router and 1 wireless card.

In addition to protecting yourself with equipment, you should also equip yourself with software. While on the Internet think of your

simultaneously and quickly. Antivirus software protects your desk drawers you know are opened, as well as, invisible ones that may be visible to a remote computer. Basically a good firewall will protect not only outgoing traffic from your pc to the net, but incoming traffic as well. On occasion firewall programs may conflict with your network setup. If one causes problems, there are many more to choose from. Zone Alarm and Grisoft AVG are two very reputable freebies. Zone Alarm is a good program for tracking outgoing activity and alerting the end user. If the outgoing program is not something you use regularly like Internet Explorer or your email

## Getting To Know Each Other

In the last five years Todd and Kristy Segress have run the full course of modern day business owners. They established a corporate office in Oklahoma City, as well as, a home based office in Edmond, Oklahoma. Todd who is the president of Wavelinx Inc. sees society going to voice, phone and data in a mobile environment. Kristy currently works for Birch Telephone providing the backbone to one of our newest WISP's.

Todd and Kristy have been married for 14 years and have two sons, Landon and Thaz. Even though Todd trains in martial arts and Kristy plays soccer, both feel their biggest challenge is raising their children. Kristy recently re-entered the corporate world after working out of her home-based business providing technical support to Wavelinx. Like many people attempting the move from business office to home office, she found the needs of her three year old son rarely coincided with the needs of her clients. Though stressful, the work environment was not impossible. She found by setting aside a place in the home for her office and staying versatile in a demanding schedule she was able to strengthen more business skills than she would have the opportunity to explore in a traditional office setting.

Todd's vision is equally progressive. He believes we will no longer be limited by geography thanks to the service his company offers its clients. Individuals can communicate with friends, family and other business people in real time whether they're in the same town or in Japan. The infrastructure is changing by incorporating e-commerce, which brings new money to geographic areas such as rural towns that may never see development of a new super highway. "Broadband wireless Internet service is a new highway, how you handle the traffic is completely up to you."

Kristy adds that whether working at home or in the office today's professionals have to stay in the moment. Learning prioritization has been a huge challenge for her since working at home. The experience carried over into her new job where she works in a very mobile environment from client to client. According to Kristy, she not only strengthened her work skills, but she also benefited personally by gaining confidence and trust in her own abilities.

Todd and Kristy both envision a future of streaming video available to both business and personal environments. Their company has a simple vision with a complex name – customer centric positioning – in other words, what can we do to improve your life.\_

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AVG seems very conscientious about continually updating its programming to offer as up to date protection as possible. Spydot Search and Destroy is a protection program that targets spyware by prohibiting such rascals from being installed on your pc.

The best protection package recommended by experts is a router w/firewall, updated anti-virus program and end user maintenance. Since most of the culprits come in through emails and attachments, protect yourself by setting up your mail to open only on command. Disable the automatic open feature. If mail is unsolicited, delete it. Unsolicited marketing is one of the most prolific opportunities for a stranger to gain access to your personal information and surfing habits. Even with people you know, train yourself to be wary of forwarded messages. Run everything through your virus protection before downloading it, especially files from diskettes. Set up your anti-virus software to automatically activate as soon as you turn on your computer. Make sure you keep Microsoft Windows updated as well. Current updates for the operating system can be downloaded free of charge from their website. Most of the programs mentioned in this article offer periodic updates automatically. Don't put it off. Make it a part of your routine. In other words, keep the posse on its horses.\_

I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

Thomas Edison



## *Net Chat*

I can remember the first time a computer came into my house. We were training racing quarter horses at the time. I didn't really understand my husband's sudden need for a metal box with something called chips in it, but what did I know? He was the trainer and I was the groom. Improved technology to me was a lighter barn fork to muck stalls. I wanted a tool made for someone with hands the size of a petite woman to transfer horse chips from the stall floor to the wheelbarrow.

For the first 30 days RD stared at a blank screen with all kinds of books spread around him. He appeared to be baffled about how to proceed. I figured that was his job. I had animals to bathe, legs to wrap and hot suppers to cook for the horses. My technology was a horse shoe at the end of a heating rod that I used to boil water, which cooked the sweet feed and vitamins.

Sometime into the second month, I noticed RD had fewer books but there was actually a program on the screen now. It would become our bookkeeping system. I wanted a better pair of barn overalls. Something that wasn't so big it caught in the wind and blew me over, making me dump my wheelbarrow in the street instead of on the pile.

Around the third month I began getting a little peeved. Training schedules were put on the computer. Like I needed a computer printout to tell which horse to tack first for the jockeys. Honey, just tell me who tracks today and who doesn't.

Eventually I made peace with the metal secretary. My billing was much easier. I could track market prices on bulk items like fields of hay and oat prices. The tracking schedule did help chart the horses' performances, which did help a lot on race day. But then RD went too far. He figured I needed a house work schedule. This was his solution to my request for some help with the chores. We both worked seven days a week. I figured if he would help a little with chores around the house we could both catch more rest and recuperate time. In the end the house work schedule didn't make it. Like I needed a computer print out to tell me who got to eat a home cooked meal that day or NOT.

In the coming months I will handle a variety of topics, interview not only Wavelinx employees but customers, and have a chat. If there is a particular area of interest or idea you would like me to cover, please call me at 405-602-2401 or email me at [donna@wavelinx.net](mailto:donna@wavelinx.net). Also, I would like to add a feature that finds new and interesting Internet sights. Once again your help would be greatly appreciated.

Waiting to hear from you, Donna. \_

