



PTCI

communicator

Winter 2021

Increased internet use requires increased internet speeds

Did Santa deliver lots of internet-connected devices to your house last month? Have you noticed them slowing down or lagging lately? That's because you need more internet speed to keep them all running smoothly.

PTCI has the fastest and most reliable internet around. We recommend a speed of at least 50 Mbps, especially if you have multiple devices. This includes smartphones, computers, tablets, smart TVs, smart home equipment, and many other gadgets.

To find out what speed is right for you, give us a call at 800.562.2556. You may qualify for a special internet upgrade.



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Office Closure
January 1 – New Year's

Which streaming device is best for your needs?

If you're looking to stream TV over your internet connection, you'll need a streaming device to support your streaming service(s). There are many device options available, but these are widely regarded as the top picks for various types of users:

Best streaming device: Amazon Fire TV Cube

The Amazon Fire TV Cube is actually more than just a streaming device. Using Alexa, it lets you control almost everything in your entertainment center with just your voice. There's only a minimal need for a remote.

Best streaming stick: Roku Streaming Stick+

This tiny device (resembling a USB drive) is considered to be the best streaming stick on the market. It offers great features for an affordable price, and its interface is easy to use.

Best premium streamer: Roku Ultra (2019)

This powerful set-top box provides more speed and media options than the Roku Streaming Stick. It even has a "lost remote" button that will trigger a tone from the remote.

Best budget streamer: Roku Express

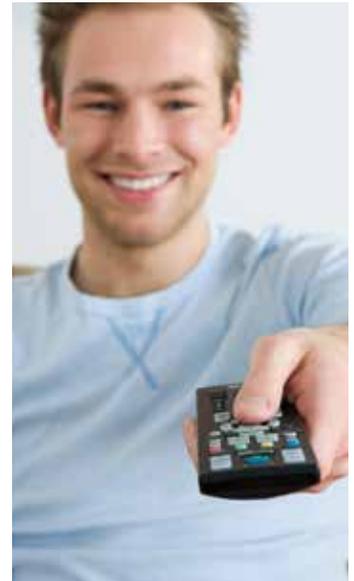
Penny pinchers will love the Roku Express, which delivers just the streaming basics for a low price. You won't get "bells and whistles," but you will get a bargain.

Best streamer for Apple lovers: Apple TV 4K

The Apple TV 4K is the obvious choice for Apple devotees who want a seamless TV experience across all their Apple devices. It comes with lots of streaming apps.

Before you select a streaming device, be sure to do your homework online to review details about features and prices. It's also a good idea to talk to friends and family to see what brand of streaming device they're using. If you're lucky, you may even find someone to help you with setup!

To enjoy the best experience while streaming—free from annoying buffering—you'll want a fast internet connection. Call us at 800.562.2556 for information about our range of internet speeds.





3 tech resolutions to make in 2021

Don't forget about technology when making New Year's resolutions. It could save you tons of time and trouble in the coming year.

1. I will back up my data. Consider the vast amount of personal data (some of it irreplaceable) stored on your devices. What happens to these files if someone steals your laptop, your hard drive fails, or there's a nasty virus? It's imperative to back up your data regularly, either through an external hard drive or cloud storage.

2. I will keep my software and operating system updated. Software makers continually update their programs to fix problems or add more functionality. If you have the option for "automatic" updates — in software such as your operating system, internet security programs, and Web browser — click to accept this feature.

3. I will fight back against spam. You can greatly reduce the amount of spam you receive by employing a combination of strategies. Check your email or webmail program to see what your options are for junk mail filters, and bump up your filters so they keep more spam out of your inbox.

Let PTCI fix your WiFi issues

When you get home after a long day, the last thing you want to tackle is your household internet problems. Everything from slow speeds to poor signal strength and buffering have an easy solution — PTCI's Whole Home WiFi.

With Whole Home WiFi, we'll fix glitches you didn't even know involved your router, like firmware upgrades, signal limitations, connectivity issues, and more. All of these router-related issues affect the quality of your internet experience.

Check out what's included in Whole Home WiFi:

- Custom home signal assessment
- Automatic firmware upgrades
- Commercial-grade, dual-band router
- Home signal extenders, if needed
- Access to our friendly 24/7/365 help desk



If you like the idea of having someone else handle all your WiFi issues, you're in luck. You can enjoy all the benefits of Whole Home WiFi starting at \$9.95/month.

To learn more about Whole Home WiFi, please visit one of our stores in Perryton or Spearman, or call 800.562.2556 to speak to one of our friendly customer service representatives.

Everything's easier with a local business

There are many community-centered reasons to buy local whenever possible. For example, when you choose to buy products or services from a local business, you're supporting a local employer and helping to boost the local economy. You're also enabling unique independent businesses to keep going, which is important since they add personality and appeal to the community.

In addition, there are other easy-to-appreciate reasons to buy local. When you choose a local business, it's:

- **Easier to talk to a human being.** Your call won't be transferred to a faraway place. Instead, it will be answered by a local employee.
- **Easier to get responsive customer service.** You can count on being treated well whenever there's an issue to resolve.
- **Easier to enjoy the shopping experience.** Isn't it more fun to do business with a local owner or manager who clearly has a passion for what they do?

PTCI encourages you to buy local and thanks you for choosing us, the local communications provider.



LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Five Star Equipment

In 1987, a local group pooled together to purchase Five Star Equipment in Spearman, Texas. Now 33 years later, they're still going strong. Five Star Equipment is a regional leader in sales and service of tractors, combines, planters, Zimmatic Center Pivots, and just about anything else needed on the farm.

"The previous owner was getting out, and we knew we had the knowhow to run the dealership," Manager/Owner Richey Thompson said. "We put together a group of local people. It took quite a few of us. Of that original group, there are three of us that are still here. It's been a good business for us."

All three owners are still very involved in the day-to-day operations. Stephen Poole is the Service Manager, Buford Baker runs their center pivot operation, and Thompson manages the business as a whole. Beyond the ownership, they know their employees are a huge part of any company's success.

"The best thing you can do in a business like ours is surround yourself with people that have their heart in it," Thompson said. "We're so thankful for the quality of people we have working here. We've tried to make sure and take good care of them. We've lived by that rule from day one."

And when your workforce is traveling up to 100 miles in any direction from their Spearman headquarters to repair and service whatever breaks down on the farm, having good people to rely on is a priority.

"The people that you bring in, that you hire, the people that you want to represent you, that's the key," Thompson said. "If you don't have that, you don't have anything. You have to have quality people and we do. We've been fortunate."

One item that's helped Five Star Equipment expand their business far beyond the High Plains region is their web presence, powered by PTCI internet.



Top: A tractor decorated for Christmas greets customers at the entrance to Five Star Equipment.



Left: Richey Thompson, Owner/Manager of Five Star Equipment talks with PTCI about their business. Thompson, along with two other owners Buford Baker and Stephen Poole also manage different aspects of day-to-day operations and have since they took ownership in 1987.

"We get business from all over the United States because of our web presence," Thompson said. "It's always fun to talk with them and find out how they found out about us, and it's almost always through our website."

If you're looking for quality products and service, with knowledgeable and caring staff for your farm operation, look to Five Star Equipment.



REMINDER: Be sure to order honor roll t-shirts

It's the time of year when PTCI will reward your 7th through 12th grade honor roll students. This year we've made a change back to giving out a free, custom-made t-shirt for making good grades! Remind your children to order their t-shirt this month.

The deadline to order is Friday, January 29, 2021. Order forms will be at their school office. You can get more information through your school counselor or office personnel.

PTCI Scholarship gives back to local students

PTCI values education and every year helps five local high school seniors work toward their goals of obtaining college degrees. During the past 29 years, PTCI has awarded over \$300,000 to our area kids. The students each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the university or trade school of their choice.

Part of PTCI's mission is to enhance the quality of life for our members and customers, and we feel a duty to do so. Awarding scholarships help us meet that goal. These scholarships benefit our students, but are an investment to our region as well. Many students return to the area after graduating to work and enhance our communities.

This year, area high school seniors have until January 31 to submit their applications online. The mobile-friendly process makes it easier for students to apply, and often the students use a school computer or cell phone to complete their applications.

Eligible students may apply at ptci.submittable.com until 11:59 PM on January 31, 2021. Recipients will be announced at a later date in the spring.



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