

# Dot Net News

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A quarterly newsletter for *tctwest.net* and *tritel.net* users

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## More computer for the buck

Buying a new computer has never been more affordable. According to *Popular Mechanics*, the magic number right now is \$899. The people at *Popular Mechanics* conducted a consumer research test involving the "big three" in the computer retail industry -- Dell, Gateway and Compaq -- with surprising results.

Computers from all three companies were comparable in configuration. They all came with at least 128MB RAM (the Gateway model had 256MB) and Windows XP Home Edition (this operating system requires a minimum of 128MB). The test models each came equipped with Intel Celeron microprocessors running between 1.1 and 1.2 GHz, 17-inch monitor, a CD-RW drive and were bundled with Microsoft Office Professional software package. They all had speakers, sound systems and video systems and a one-year warranty. Both the Dell and Compaq models had 40GB drives while the Gateway had a 20GB (40GB available for an additional \$50).

Each company offered the package deal described above at a price of \$899. For additional dollars, all sorts of upgrades in terms of memory, keyboard, processor speeds, etc. are available. Computer manufacturers also sell numerous peripheral devices such as scanners, digital cameras and printers that would raise the price. The idea of the test was to see just how little money it would take to buy a good, functional computer that suits most users.

For the complete report by Kim Komando of *Popular Mechanics*, including model numbers and detailed specifications, log on to

[http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/computers/2002/4/the\\_magic\\_number/](http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/computers/2002/4/the_magic_number/)



Photo by Michel Tcherevkoff (from *Popular Mechanics*)

Another good site to visit when comparing computer specifications and prices is *Consumer Reports* at <http://www.consumerreports.org>

## Coming soon: The 'wired' house on the Internet

The world is moving ahead in technology at breakneck speed, in no small part because of the rapid growth of the Internet and other broadband applications. *Tri County Telephone Association, Inc.*, TCT WEST, INC. and TRI TEL, INC. are major players in that growth in Wyoming. We have been providing some broadband services in certain *Tri County* and TCT WEST service areas and recently deployed high-speed, broadband wireless Internet service in Cody.

Internet browsing and email are not the only broadband applications currently being used or in planning stages. Below is an excerpt from an online article in *Consumer Reports* (see complete article at [www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org)).

*"As revolutionary as it is, today's Internet and email is just the beginning. Coming in the next few years is an array of products and services that takes advantage of a high-speed Internet connection and that goes far beyond web-surfing and email messaging. Dot-com startups and Fortune 500 companies say they can soon offer services such as these:*

- Significant savings of energy and money by controlling heating, air-conditioning, and appliance energy use.
- Close monitoring of family members—especially seniors—to sound an appropriate alert when a health-care problem arises.
- Home-entertainment packages, including video on demand, personalized music playlists, and telephone calls over the Internet.

More than 100 business executives and university researchers met in Las Vegas in mid-December 2001 to discuss these and other developments at "Leveraging



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[ConsumerReports.org](http://www.ConsumerReports.org)

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## On the road again

We like to remind our customers, especially this time of year when many people vacation, that they can get their *tctwest.net* and *tritel.net* email from anywhere. As long as you have an Internet connection, your email is available.

Just visit [www.tctwest.net](http://www.tctwest.net) or [www.tritel.net](http://www.tritel.net) and click on the "email for travelers" link on the left sidebar (or you can go directly to [www.mail2web.com](http://www.mail2web.com)). You will see a link "click here". After clicking on the link, simply type in your complete email address and your password.

Mail2Web will check your email that is on our server and bring it up on a web page. From there you can click on any of the messages to bring them up. You can read them, reply to the sender, create a new mail, or delete any of the messages that you no longer want. When you return home, any undeleted messages will be delivered to your own computer.



You don't have to be on vacation to use this service. You could check your email at work without downloading the messages into your work computer. Also, if you have an extra email account, this is a great way to check that account—even from your own computer.

If you travel with your own computer, you can access your email using your dial-up account. Remember though, if you are out of the area, you will need to dial 1+307+your local access number. This *will* result in long distance charges.

## Plan ahead—it's fun and easy

Summertime is when most of us take our vacations. Now that you know how to check your email while you're away, you need to plan the trip. Whether you are planning a cross-country trip or just a little jaunt around Wyoming,



there are many useful sites on the Internet to assist in travel planning. The site we

are highlighting in this issue of *Dot Net News* is [www.randmcnally.com](http://www.randmcnally.com). This site has lots of great helps including a destination finder and map creator.

When you enter the Rand McNally home page, you will see fill-in blanks to complete for either destination directions or obtaining maps.

You'll need to select a starting point and a destination location. If you aren't sure where you're going, you can click



on the [Explore America](#) link and find a place to go! You will be helped in finding things to do and places to stay during your trip. You can click on a link to get the exact mileage between two locations.

When you are finished, you'll have an all-in-one road trip plan with maps, driving directions, and much more. By registering with Rand McNally (it's free), you will be able to save your road trip plans so that you can update them as needed.



# Ask Bruce

by Bruce Fritz, Internet Technician  
brfritz@tctwest.net



**Q. Can you tell me how I can make a quick copy of a file? I know I can open it and then go to “save as” and save it where I want, but can you tell me a quicker way?**

**Thanks, Erin**

A. Yes, there is a quick way, and you don't even have to open the file. Just highlight the file you want to copy (click on it) and press control-c, then control-v. You will have made a copy of the file in the same folder called “copy of (original file name)”.

Bruce

**Q. I have tried to run disk defragmenter and it will not finish. I keep getting the error message that the defrag utility has had to restart 10 times and cannot finish. Any suggestions?**

**Thanks, Sally**

A. There are a couple of things you can do, Sally. One is to be sure you have nothing else running such as your virus protection software, screen savers, etc. Sometimes these are hard to turn off, so what I like to do is boot into safe mode and then run disk defrag. Everything runs fine. You may not know how to boot into safe mode. If you are running Windows 95, do this:

Start your computer and when you see “Starting Windows 95”, press and release the F8 key. Then windows will display a list of options. Selection number 3 – boot in safe mode.

For Windows 98 or ME, you have to press the control key when the text screen comes up. On the faster computers, this screen goes by pretty quickly, so don't be afraid to press the control key several times. Just don't hold it down, as you will get an error message that you have a stuck key.

Bruce

**Q. The other day I was asked how fast my computer was, and I couldn't remember. I looked for the papers that came with the computer but think I threw them away. Do you know of a way I can tell what I have in my computer?**

**Thanks, Sam**

A. There is a simple way to find out everything you want to know about your computer, and then some. Just click on start, then on run. Type in msinfo32.exe. Then click ok. It will give you your processor, memory, OS name, system name, etc.

## TRI TEL wireless service in Cody

TRI TEL, INC. now offers wireless, high-speed Internet service to many locations in Cody. Wireless Internet is just one kind of broadband technology used in the industry. At present, wireless is the only high-speed service available in Cody.

Customers need to purchase equipment that is then installed at the home or business. It requires that an antenna be mounted to receive signal from one of several towers located in and around Cody. Multiple computers may be networked together at the location and share the bandwidth. Business and residential users in the Cody area who want higher speeds for their Internet access will find this a very good solution to broadband needs.

Not all locations are good for wireless Internet service. A direct line of site to one of the towers is necessary. Also, dense foliage around the home or business can limit reception. A free site survey will be done prior to installation to ensure quality of service.

Cody customers interested in high-speed Internet access should contact one of our offices for more details or to request a site survey.

Cody - 587.8297  
Powell - 754.9160

Basin - 568.2445  
Lovell - 548.2275

toll-free 1.877.4TRITEL

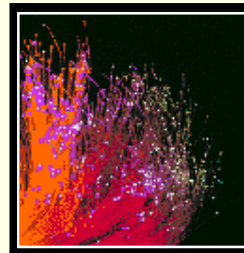


*Early computer used for census calculations*

***We've come a long way, baby!***



*One-handed keyboard and mouse*



*Lighted bundle of optical fibers*



*Someone with a vision of the future*

**Wired -** *continued from page 1*

Digital Opportunities," a three-day conference sponsored by Parks Associates, a Dallas-based market-research firm.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

Broadband, or high-speed Internet access, is a rapidly growing service. Some 11 million households now have it, and some 37 million households are expected to have it by the year 2005. Whether through a phone line, a cable-TV hookup, or a satellite feed, broadband offers more than speed. It will make it possible to interconnect any number of appliances and systems in the home, from the computers to the TV sets to the kitchen appliances and the furnace.

Networking is already practical, at least for computers. Networked homes represent the next logical step. Connecting a home's hardware means that many kinds of information can easily be shared or synchronized. For example, linking the computer, the sound system, the TV set, and a portable music player means that a song can be downloaded once from a web site and then routed to any or all of those outlets. Or, with a cell phone, a personal digital assistant, and the heating system all interconnected, you can turn up the heat on the way home from work and walk into a warm house.

What's more, you won't have to be a Ph.Geek to install these new systems. Speaker after speaker underscored the need to keep the hardware simple, using existing wires or wireless technology. "

You can view this issue of **Dot Net News** and archived issues online at [www.tctwest.net/newsletter1.htm](http://www.tctwest.net/newsletter1.htm)

**Dot Net News**

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Basin, WY 82410-0350



**Telephone Numbers**

Tri County Telephone Assn., Inc.	toll free "611" or 1.877.828.9378
TCT WEST, INC.	toll free "611" or 1.877.TCTWEST
TRI TEL, INC.	1.877.4TRITEL
Powell	754.9160
Cody	587.8297
Verizon Wireless - Basin	568.3357
Lovell	548.2275
Powell	754.9160
Cody	587.8297
Internet Technical Support	1.800.823.4664

**E-mail Addresses**

Tri County Telephone Assn., Inc.	tri@tctwest.net
TCT WEST, INC.	tctwest@tctwest.net
TRI TEL, INC.	tritel@tritel.net
Verizon Wireless	verizon@tctwest.net
Newsletter Information	news@tctwest.net
Signup Information	signup@tctwest.net

**Web Sites to Visit**

tctwest.net	www.tctwest.net
tritel.net	www.tritel.net
Weather	www.weather.com
Area Codes	www.linmad.com/locator.html
Internet Traffic	www.internettrafficreport.com
Dot Net News	www.tctwest.net/newsletter1.htm
Online Classified	www.easyseller.com
Popular Mechanics	www.popularmechanics.com
Consumer Reports	www.consumerreports.org