

The Connection

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Manager Moment

Softswitch

Almost a year ago, we decided to upgrade our telephone switch to the next generation of switching equipment, a Softswitch. After months of planning, installing, testing, and no shortage of conference calls, we cut-over our telephone service on September 15th to a new Nortel CS-1500 from the old Nortel DMS-10.

The DMS-10 was put in back in the 1990s. It's a good switch, and has performed well. We could continue to use it for a few more years, but the incentives to upgrade were favorable now. The DMS-10 is a digital switch built on TDM architecture. With upgrades and additional equipment added, it can do almost everything our new switch can do. However, the expense of those upgrades and additions outweighed the benefits of having them.

The CS-1500 is Nortel's latest and greatest telephone switch. It was designed to easily replace the DMS-10 with minimal pain and suffering for the Telco. It talks the same language, and operates the same way as the DMS-10. This allowed us to move from one switch to the other without any extensive training. The CS-1500 can operate the same peripheral devices meaning we didn't have to rewire every line we have. This offered a huge savings in time and expense, and was a determining factor in choosing Nortel.

What's the difference? The CS-1500 will allow us to offer more diverse services in the future. It also has a lot of what our DMS-10 was missing built right into it. The DMS-10 was 5 equipment frames full of equipment. The CS-1500 is one. Our DMS-10 could provide about 1500 lines. The CS-1500 can provide 50,000+. Our DMS-10 had physical electronic paths for communication. The CS-1500 does most of it with software (hence the term softswitch). The CS-1500 uses less power, takes up less space, and allows for expansion and enhancement of services that the DMS-10 did not. The CS-1500 will allow us to comply with all existing and foreseeable government regulations on telephone companies as well.

It's not an easy task to cut from one switch to the other, but thanks to the help of Consortia Consulting, Oak Hill Consulting, SDN, Qwest, Nortel, and Golden West, we made the cut over with minimal effect to the customer or the company. As customers, you won't notice any change has been made to your phone line, but the change will allow us to enhance some of the services we offer, add some additional services, and progress into the future of the telephone industry.

On a side note, the people of Kennebec may have noticed us blowing the fire siren over the past few weeks. One of the changes we had to make for the new switch was with the firebar. This is the service that calls all the firemen when someone reports a fire. We had to change the way it interfaces with the switch, and test it when we were done. In testing it, we discovered the siren was not blowing correctly. The problem was found in the siren controller, and the circuit board had to be sent in for repair. In the mean time, they sent us a loaner to use. When ours is fixed, we'll change it back out. Every time we make a change, the only way to test the siren is to set it off. We call the fire phone before we do to let people know there is no fire; however, this has caused some confusion and questions among the firemen and community. Hopefully, by the end of October, everything will be back to normal, and the siren will be operating as expected.

Trusty Mertens
Central Office Manager

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Erected a Met Tower at Lyman High School

Last month Kennebec Telephone Company consisting of Justin Collins, Frankie Moran, and Barrot Lillebo erected a 20 meter Met tower for the High School. The Vo Ag class will be studying the data from the Met tower hopefully giving the students a head start in this field, if they chose to go into this line of work in the future. A Met tower has instruments that collect wind speed,

wind direction, temperature, barometric pressure and other data depending on how they are set up. This data is usually collected for one to two years and analyzed by a meteorologist who then can determine whether it will be economically feasible to erect a turbine in that spot. With South Dakota becoming one of the country's hot spots for wind, it creates a great opportunity for

kids to get a good paying job that should be around for many years to come. Mitchell Tech has even started a Wind Turbine Technology course because of the great wind opportunity here in South Dakota. We were proud to help Lyman High School in giving our local high school students a little bit of a head start of what could be a very lucrative future.



NBC

When you watch NBC you can find news, sports, soaps, sitcoms and much more. Whatever you want to watch, you're sure to find it on NBC. If you are interested in what's going on in the world, you can watch either The Today Show or Dateline. Interested in what the movie stars are going, you can find that



on Access Hollywood. If you're a big sports fan, you are sure to find a game on Sunday nights. And don't forget about the day time soaps such as Passions and Days of our Lives. When you are sitting at home in the evenings you can find

programs like ER, Law & Order, and The Office. To find these programs and more they can be found on channel 7 of our basic cable...which by the way is now digital.

What's all this noise about this Unlimited Long Distance? I've heard people talking about it, but what exactly does it cover? Unlimited Long Distance is a long distance plan that will cover all the long distance calls you make anywhere in the US at anytime of the day or night. You can get Unlimited Long Distance for one low monthly rate of \$21.95. However, if you think you don't make more than 200 minutes of long distances calls a month, then maybe a Bucket of Minutes would be more feasible for you at only \$15.00 a month. Kennebec Long Distance is sure to have a plan for you. Plus if you switch over to KLD you get a local and a friendly customer service rep that's willing to help out with whatever you need. If you sign up in November, you will receive a KLD coat.

Fire Safety

General Manager Rod Bowar, Outside Plant Manager Matt Collins, Central Office Technician Ken Walling, and Marketing Manager Jason Thiry along with three other local firemen participated in the fire safety tour at the Kennebec fire hall on Oct 7th. The Kennebec Kindergarten, first and second grade classes walked to the fire hall where they got to

learn about some of the equipment firefighters use. There was a firemen dressed up in full bunker gear along with an oxygen mask so the kids know not to be afraid in the event of a real fire. The kids then got a short ride out in the country and back to the school in a fire truck driven by a fireman. Rod Bowar, Assistant Fire Chief, feels it's a great way to get the

kids familiar with the firemen and the equipment they use. He also stresses to the kids that if they are ever in a fire they should not be afraid of the firemen, and they are there to help. Kennebec Telephone is proud of the fact that we have nine employees on the Kennebec Fire Department and five on the Presho Fire Department.

Kennebec/Presho Cable Listing

02 Home Box Office (HBO)	22 ESPN Classics	42 MTV
03 KPRY (ABC)	23 ESPNEWS	43 VH-1
04 FOX	24 ESPN2	44 Lifetime (LIFE)
05 SHOWTIME (SHO)	25 ESPN	45 Home & Garden Television
06 Cinemax	26 Turner Network Television	46 Fox News
07 KDLT Sioux Falls (NBC)	27 WGN	47 Animal Planet
08 KTSD (PBS)	28 TBS	48 Home Shopping Network
09 KPLO (CBS)	29 Disney Channel (DISN)	49 FX
10 The Inspiration Ntwk (INSP)	30 Cartoo (TOON)	50 TV Land
11 Cable News Network (CNN)	31 Nickelodeon (NICK)	51 Comedy Central
12 Headline News (HLN)	32 The Learning Channel (TLC)	52 Great American Country
13 C-SPAN	33 Discovery (DSC)	53 Comedy Central
14 C-SPAN 2	34 History (HIST)	54 American Movie Classics
15 Local Channel	35 Arts & Entertainment (A&E)	55 Trinity Broadcasting Ntwrk
16 The CW	36 CNBC	56 EWTN
17 The Weather Ch - Winner	37 USA Network (USA)	59 RFD-TV
18 The Movie Channel	38 ABC Family (ABCFAM)	60 Channel Guide
19 QVC	39 Country Music Television	62 FOX
20 ION	40 SPike TV	63 NFL Network
21 Local Weather Ch - Kncb	41 Turner Classic Movies (TCM)	

The following are the lucky winners of our **HALLOWEEN** Contest:

Rowdy Moore	Hanna Thiry
Roper Moore	Lyndsey Thiry

Important Dates:

Veteran's Day	November 11
Office Closed	
Thanksgiving	November 25
Office Closed	

Directory Changes:

Dan Altman	895-2235
Dan McManigal	895-2229
Kevin & Esther Myers	869-2242
Stanley Hunting Lodge	895-4868



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Our mission is to provide the highest quality telecommunications and information service to our customers at an affordable price. We will strive to offer prompt, friendly and dependable service along with the latest technology to attain the highest possible customer satisfaction.

If you would like more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter feel free to contact us at 605-869-2220.

Cable Changes

Kennebec Telephone would like to update/change our cable TV line up. So, we would like to hear from you our customers on what you like/dislike to watch on our cable system. We would like each adult in the household to fill one out and return back to us. When you return the form your name will be placed into a drawing to win a TV.

Please list your 5 favorite channels and 5 least favorite channels on our line up.

Name: _____

FAVORTE	LEAST FAVORITE
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

Please list your 5 favorite channels and 5 least favorite channels on our line up.

Name: _____

FAVORTE	LEAST FAVORITE
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____