

Jefferson Telecom
FALL 2025

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October Is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

To spotlight cybersecurity as a shared responsibility that affects all Americans, October has been designated as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.



Protect yourself online with the SPAM rule:

S – Stop. Don't rush. Pause before clicking links or attachments.

P – Pause. Question unexpected or urgent requests.

A – Ask. Verify with the sender using a trusted contact method.

M – Manage. Keep devices updated, use strong passwords, and enable Multi-Factor Authentication.

A little caution goes a long way!

Contact

Jefferson Telecom
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Jefferson, IA 50129
Phone: 515-386-4141
Hours: Mon: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tues-Fri: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm


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Visit Us Online

www.jeffersontelecom.com

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Technology People Talk About



NEED SPEED?

YOU NEED FIBER INTERNET!

We'll get to the point quickly. Nothing is as fast as fiber Internet, and our fiber Internet plans offer speeds up to an incredible Gigabit Connection (940 Mbps).

This is the kind of speed you need to enjoy an optimal online experience during activities like these:

- Streaming on multiple devices simultaneously
- Competitive online gaming
- Video conferencing and working from home

Too-slow Internet can slowly drive you crazy with annoyances like buffering. So, act fast!

**CALL 515-386-4141, OPTION #3
TO UPGRADE YOUR SPEED**

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You'll Automatically Appreciate the Benefits of AutoPay

There are many household things we need to remember to do on a regular basis, from watering the houseplants to changing the furnace filter. Wouldn't it be nice to scratch one thing off that "to do" list? That's what happens with AutoPay from Jefferson Telecom.

Once you set up AutoPay, you can simply forget about it. Your Jefferson Telecom bill payment will be automatically debited from your bank account on the same day each month, without you having to do a thing. It's the easiest way to make sure your payment is made on time, every time—even when you're traveling or busy with other activities. In other words, AutoPay lets you forget about bill paying and remember to enjoy life.

For more information about AutoPay and to start enjoying its convenience, visit www.jeffersontelecom.com, scroll to the bottom right-hand corner, and click on "Automatic Pymt Form" or call 515-386-4141, option #3.



**Win a \$20
Credit on
Your Jefferson
Telecom Bill**

\$20

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill or email info@jeffersontelecom.com for a chance to win a \$20 credit to your account. Respond by October 20, 2025, to be eligible. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

☐ Yes, please use my email for communication purposes.

Congratulations to our last "Winner of a \$20 Credit," Kevin Hoskins of Jefferson.



Take Your Wi-Fi Outdoors to Make the Most of Fall

What do you get when you combine fall's cozy weather with fun backyard activities like watching movies and gathering around a firepit? You get great reasons to make sure your home's Wi-Fi network is equipped to support your networking needs beyond your walls.

Just imagine how wonderful it would be to have fast and reliable Wi-Fi signals outside, so you can work on your laptop from the patio or enjoy streaming movies with your family on the deck or porch.

The ability to extend your indoor wireless signal to the great outdoors depends on how far you want that Wi-Fi signal to reach — whether just to the patio or all the way to the far end of a large backyard. For short distances, you can try moving your router as close to your yard as your Ethernet cable will take you, but that may not be enough.

Many households have an indoor mesh Wi-Fi system that comes with one router and one or two mesh devices. Are you one of them? Since these systems typically cover up to 5,000 square feet, you may be able to get the outside Wi-Fi coverage you want by moving one of the mesh devices to an indoor space (such as the garage) near the part of your yard you want covered.

In some cases, adding an additional mesh device may be needed to achieve the desired outdoor coverage without sacrificing Wi-Fi speed or coverage inside your home. It can be simple to add a mesh device, since it only needs an electrical outlet to plug in the power adapter, and no Ethernet cable is required. There are other equipment options available, including units designed to be used outdoors on exterior walls.

Jefferson Telecom can help you make the great outdoors even greater with Wi-Fi coverage. We offer the eero Outdoor 7 mesh extender, built for all seasons, so you can stay connected in your backyard. Visit www.jeffersontelecom.com/eero or call 515-386-4141, option #3 to learn about our eero equipment, which can be customized to meet your outdoor Wi-Fi needs.



MFA Matters and You Need to Be Ready

If you've recently logged in to your bank, set up a new phone, or tried to access a government website like Social Security, you've probably encountered MFA, or Multi-Factor Authentication. It's becoming a standard security measure across nearly all online accounts—and for good reason.

What Does MFA Do?

Multi-Factor Authentication adds an extra layer of protection to your accounts. Instead of relying only on a password (which can be guessed or stolen), MFA requires you to provide an additional proof of identity. This might be:

- A one-time code sent by text or email
- An app-generated code
- A fingerprint, face scan, or security key

Why Is It Important?

Cybercriminals are constantly looking for ways to access personal information. MFA makes it significantly harder for them to break into your accounts, even if they know your password. In fact, using MFA can block over 99% of automated hacking attempts.

Where Will You Encounter MFA?

Be prepared to use MFA in an increasing number of situations, such as logging into online banking, accessing your phone carrier account to change or upgrade a plan, setting up a new phone, signing in to government sites such as Social Security and IRS portals, and managing subscriptions or utilities online.

How to Be "MFA Ready"

Take these steps:

- **Keep your contact info current.** Make sure your phone number and email on file with your providers are up to date.
- **Know your methods.** Some accounts may send a code by text, while others may require an authentication app. Download and set up these tools ahead of time.
- **Be patient.** Extra steps may feel inconvenient, but they protect your identity and your data.



The Bottom Line

MFA is no longer optional. It's now a vital part of keeping your digital life secure. By understanding how it works and preparing to use it, you'll save time, avoid frustration, and most importantly, help keep your personal information safe.



Don't Pass by This Password Reminder

You've heard it before, but we'll say it again. It's important to have strong passwords and change them regularly to help keep your accounts safe. Here are the basics:

Don't use personal information. This includes names of people in your family, your address, or birthdays, since this information can be publicly available to hackers.

Don't use real words. Password cracking tools can process every word in the dictionary until a match is found. Instead, use uppercase and lowercase letters combined with special characters such as "&" or "#."

Create longer passwords. The longer it is, the better. Try for at least 10 characters.

Don't use the same password for multiple websites. If one website has a data breach and you've used that password elsewhere, it's easier for hackers to steal more information.

Change your passwords. Get in the habit of changing them twice a year when you reset your clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

Jefferson Telecom offers free password notebooks to organize passwords in one convenient spot. Stop into the office to pick one up from one of our staff.



Would You Like Help With Streaming?

If you're planning to "cut the cord" from cable or satellite TV and switch to streaming over your Internet connection, Jefferson Telecom wants to make things easier for you! That's why we offer the online StreamNow guide.

StreamNow takes you step by step through this process:

1. Choose Your Ideal Internet Speed for Streaming

Selecting the optimal bandwidth for your household is the first step to streaming.

2. Review Your Streaming Service Options

There are many on-demand and live TV streaming services out there. We'll help you choose what's right for you.

3. Find, Purchase, and Connect the Right Device

If you don't have a smart TV, you'll need a separate streaming device to access the content. StreamNow offers guidance.

4. Sign Up for Streaming Services

Let the fun begin! Sign up for a streaming service or two ... or three. Most require only a 30-day commitment.

Check out StreamNow today at gostreamnow.com/jefferson.



Where to Watch Your Favorite Teams

Wondering where to catch this season's big games? Jefferson Telecom often gets questions about where to watch Iowa, Iowa State, and Caitlin Clark in action. Here's a summary:

- **Iowa Football** – Most games are carried on the Big Ten Network. For the latest broadcast info, visit hawkeyesports.com/how-to-watch-the-hawkeyes.
- **Iowa State Football** – Mediacom holds the rights to most Cyclone games. Full schedules and details are posted at cyclones.com/sports/football.
- **Indiana Fever Basketball** – Fans following Caitlin Clark can find broadcast schedules and streaming details at fever.wnba.com/indiana-fever-ways-to-watch.

Whether it's on the football field or the basketball court, this fall is packed with exciting matchups. If you have questions about streaming or TV packages, Jefferson Telecom is here to help at 515-386-4141, option #3.

New Telephone Directory Arrives This Fall

Jefferson Telecom is excited to announce that our new telephone directory will be mailed to you this fall. Once you receive your copy, we encourage you to recycle last year's directory to help reduce paper waste and support our efforts to keep Jefferson a clean and sustainable community.

This year's directory cover is truly special. It features a striking photograph of three of Jefferson's most iconic landmarks—the Mahanay Memorial Carillon Tower, the Abraham Lincoln bronze statue, and the Greene County Courthouse. Captured by local photographer Dan Meythaler of Northern Route Creative, the image beautifully highlights the heart of downtown Jefferson. Dan and his wife, Britt, bring more than 16 years of creative expertise to their work. The cover also celebrates Jefferson's recognition as a 2025 Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA) winner, a national honor highlighting the city's investment in public art and the revitalization of its historic downtown.

We're proud to feature this award-winning community on the front of our directory, and we look forward to putting this useful resource in your hands this fall.

