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NFC is here ... but what is it?

New technology called NFC ("Near Field Communication") is in all the news. Think of stepping up to a checkout register and waving your ever-present cell phone near a gadget that charges your credit card and shows your new balance in just seconds. Love it or not, this is the next big thing ... and it's actually already here, in the newly announced Google Wallet app on their Android phones. Apple's iPhone and RIM's BlackBerry have announced they will follow soon.

Sound scary? Judging from feedback, lots of people apparently think so. But many others believe that, with the proper safeguards, it will actually be handier and even safer than pretty much any other form of payment transaction.

A lost checkbook can reveal a ton of information you'd rather not share with strangers, cash can be lost or stolen, and millions of credit cards disappear for several minutes every day, in restaurants as they're sent off to be swiped.



An NFC-enabled cell phone must first be installed with a partner-app that contains your encrypted credit card information, which remains dormant until you're ready to pay. You then enter your private password and PIN and wave it within a couple inches of an NFC reader ... approved charges are displayed, with your new balance, and then you simply close the app.

Not the balance you expected? Contact your payment service immediately, rather than waiting for a monthly statement. Lose your cell phone? Your service can find it with its GPS locator and disable it immediately, while directing police to the perp who may have stolen it.

Is this just more Big Brother? Maybe, but it's really revealing no more information than is already available – possibly just making it handier, more efficient, and safer. We'll see ... the only certainty is that NFC is here to stay.

Internet data caps cometh

In a recent article, the Wall Street Journal reported that "AT&T this month imposed for the first time monthly data limits on its fixed broadband subscribers. Cabelers like Comcast and Charter have imposed their own caps in the last couple of years, albeit without penalty charges – instead they invite chronic abusers to simply take a hike.

Continued on Page Two



Our office is always closed on Memorial Day, in honor of those who have died in the defense of our nation ... please spare a moment to remember them.

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Internet data caps cometh

(Continued from Page One) "Some 56% of fixed broadband subscribers face limits of some kind on how much they can download per month. 'Data caps on nearly all wireless and wired networks in the U.S. seem likely to be in place soon,' states ComputerWorld magazine." The article goes on to ask (rhetorically) who will use YouTube or Netflix when doing so results in big excess-usage fees? *The complete article can be found at online.wsj.com under the title above, however it requires a subscription.*

Porterville.com passes 15M milestone

On Monday morning, May 9th 2011, our website home page at porterville.com passed 15 million page views, or "hits," since first going online in late 1995. That's not exactly in the same league as major national websites (which didn't exist back then), but for a small-town local it ain't bad! We'd like to thank our subscribers and the community for your many years of loyal support!

Microsoft buys Skype

Microsoft has purchased Skype in an \$8.5 billion deal that will close later this year. The popular free service is not expected to go away, according to analysis at techrepublic.com.

Tired of satellite or Clearwire? You're not alone ...

many of our new OCS accounts are customers switching to OCS from satellite or Clearwire. Tell your friends and receive a referral credit for up to a month's free service.

Firefox 4 released

Version 4.0.1 has been released, as the first full-point upgrade since the Version 3 series. Personal review? It removes quite a bit of clutter, seems to do a better job with memory (especially with lots of tabs open), and I really like the ability to arrange tabs into "tab groups." Thumbs-up...

Apple Macs hit by scareware attacks

One of the most pervasive and costly types of infection is now hitting Mac computers, signaling the end of an age of innocence for Apple customers, who until now have been spared many common cybersecurity problems.

Known as rogue antivirus or scareware, the scam programs warn PC and now Mac owners that they have been infected, then demand credit card payments to clean the machines. (Complete article can be found at www.ft.com under the title above ... no subscription is required.)

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Fan Mail

"Thanks for all your great services. I've been with OCS since 1995 and would never think of changing, you are the best ISP anywhere. I've recommended many friends and family to change to you, and not one has regretted doing so." -KL

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Plan Name	Average Speeds			Bandwidth	One-Time Fees			Monthly Service
	Min	Typ	Max		Service Activation	Installation	Equipment Deposit	
RESIDENTIAL WIRELESS								
Basic	125K	500K	750K	10GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	15GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	79.95
BUSINESS WIRELESS								
Business	375K	1.5M	2M	20GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	129.95
Professional	500K	2M	3M	25GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	159.95
Corporate	750K	3M	4M	30GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	199.95
Enterprise	1M	4M	5M	40GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	249.95
OTHER								
Wireless 900	125K	375K	750K	5GB	25.00	100.00	100.00	59.95

Bandwidth is the allowed limit per month. Excess usage fees apply for additional bandwidth.
Add \$10 per month for locations served by Alpine, Blue Ridge, and Mine Hill rural towers.

I Didn't Know That!

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