

University increases campus bandwidth

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
Staff Reporter

Truman State students and faculty received a notice about a network update of increased Internet bandwidth during the last month. This increase doubled the amount of available bandwidth from 250 megabits per second to 500 megabits per second, said Donna Liss, Truman's Information Technology Services Chief Information Officer. Liss said the increase will work for now, but will not likely be the last bandwidth increase for campus.

Liss said the best way to think about Internet bandwidth is by thinking of pipes and the amount of data that might be pushed through them. She said pipes that are larger are able to process a large push of data much faster than a smaller pipe. Liss said ITS has wanted an increase of bandwidth since the previous increase from 100 to 250 mbpr Nov. 2010 and was looking for a solution to meet student needs and demands. The increase was a collaborative effort between ITS and Residence Life, according to the email sent to students last week.

Liss said a student desire for more bandwidth was demonstrated in a survey conducted last year.

"The top request from our students was to increase the bandwidth," Liss said. "It is something we have been working on."

With two pipes now on campus, there are two physical paths to the network. The first and primary pipe was provided by MORENet, said Liss. The second connection, which Liss said is provided by Bluebird Broadband Services, helps create a stronger backup system should either pipe fail.

Liss said in the event of an Internet failure, one pipe can take over for the other and though service would be slower, it still would be active. She said the second service reduces the risk of Internet failures, and the amount of time the Internet is out of service if a failure occurs.

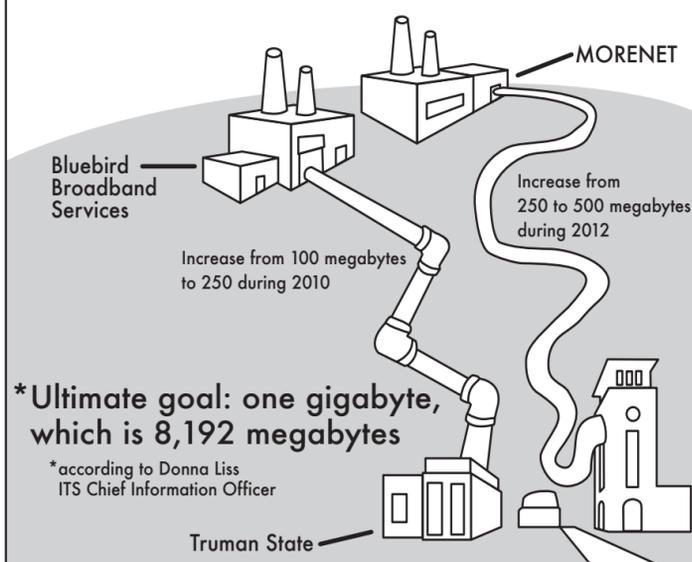
John Gardner, Director of Residence Life, said decreasing Internet failures is one of several advantages to doubling the bandwidth.

"It should mean a little bit faster Internet," Gardner said. "The bandwidth that we added is good and will hopefully improve services for students."

Liss said though this largely will benefit on campus residents, all students will have a faster, more reliable connection.

Gardner said the planning of the project took about six to eight months. He said ITS did preliminary research with Bluebird

Truman State Internet bandwidth increase



beforehand, but ITS began working with other departments such as Residence Life during March 2012.

Beside student need, funds available determine the amount of a bandwidth increase, Liss said.

"We already know this upgrade is not enough," Liss said. "It was all we could afford at the time. What we need is about two gigabits per second."

Internet updates and bandwidth increases do come at a price, and Gardner said Student Senate once discussed the idea of a technology fee. He said he encouraged students to consider this idea when thinking about existing technology and potential updates on campus.

"On Educational Benchmarking surveys, students consistently voiced that they want faster Internet," Gardner said. "We know that students would be interested in a student technology fee that would assist with this. To get to where our needs are as an institution, we need more, and currently we will not be able to do it within our financial parameters."

Senior Dan Gunn said he was unsure about a technology fee. Gunn said he is not an on campus resident, but uses the Inter-

net on campus enough to be interested in improvements. He said if the fee was reasonable and the product significantly was better, a small fee would be worth paying.

To decide total bandwidth for the University, Liss said bandwidth is watched and calculated by ITS staff. She said by watching Internet traffic, it is much easier to identify the needs of network users.

After an agreement about the amount of bandwidth is reached, Gardner said the budget for Residence Life is divided as needed and money is allocated to ITS and general technology for residence halls.

Liss said since the increase last week, there has not been an Internet failure. She said the new bandwidth is directed to residence halls so the remaining bandwidth can be used for the rest of campus. Because academic buildings see less Internet traffic at night, this Internet bandwidth can be redirected to residents during the evening hours.

"We aggregate the bandwidth during the evening hours so that anyone on campus has full use," Liss said. "One of our main goals was to offer better service to the residence hall students."

Tri-County will raise rates Jan. 1

Local electric company plans to increase customer rates to compensate for rising costs

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Assistant News Editor
index.newseditor@gmail.com

The Tri-County Electric Cooperative is raising rates 1.6 cents per kilowatt hour. This is Tri-County's second rate increase this year.

General Manager Jane Bahler-Hurt said when Tri-County raised rates by a 10.61 percent revenue increase during May 2012, it underestimated how much of an increase was needed to compensate for the rising costs. She said this is why rates are being increased again starting Jan. 1, 2013.

Bahler-Hurt said prior to the increase last May, Tri-County had not raised its rates during the past 19 years.

Bahler-Hurt said the increase was decided at the Nov. 26 Tri-County Electric Board of Directors meeting. She said Tri-County has been running analysis during the last three months to determine whether or not a rate increase was necessary.

Member services manager Kevin Wheeler said the rate increase will help Tri-County cover rising fuel costs and other operational costs that Tri-County has been absorbing throughout the past six years, such as ensuring equipment meets environmental regulations. The increase also will help with increasing costs due to inflation, health insurance and benefits, raw material prices and interest rates, according to a press release.

"We don't like it any better than the members will, but this is going to put us in a better financial position and allow us to maintain a safe, reliable system," Wheeler said.

Another reason for the increase is that Tri-County also has had to put construction and maintenance projects on hold due to a lack of funds, according to the press release.

With this increase, Wheeler said Tri-County's rates are 11.965 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 750 hours and 10.515 centers per kilowatt hour after that. The increase will affect more than 6,300 meters throughout Adair, Putnam, Schuyler and Sullivan counties, according to the Tri-County Electric website.

Warren Wood, Ameren Missouri Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Vice President, said Ameren has to deal with the same issues of rising fuel costs and the costs of meeting environmental standards. He said Ameren is considering a rate increase that would be effective starting January 2013. Ameren Missouri's current average rate is 7.45 cents per kilowatt hour, Wood said.

Another way Ameren deals with rising fuel costs is by having a fuel adjustment clause that allows Ameren to raise and lower rates as fuel prices fluctuate, Wood said. He said it is harder for businesses like Tri-County to have such a system because cooperatives serve less customers.

"We do have the economy working for us," Wood said. "We serve more customers than the co-ops, so it's easier for us to keep rates low, though I do think the co-ops do a nice job."

Alpha Phi Omega

Congratulations

to the Fall 2012 pledge class on their activation

Andrew Ahlers

Elizabeth Arms

Renee Baharaeen

Katie Bayer

Elena Bellamy

Josh Bright

Sarah Burns

Sean Cho

Dustin Capehart

Mikala Coulson

Matt Davis

Jessica Diermann

Lily Ewing

Matt Gillam

Jefferson Hartig

Drew Hill

Xiaochen Jin

Katie Johnston

Monica King

Jennifer Lowe

Megan Mange

Mary Cate McElhone

Matthew Miller

Joshua Murphy

Marissa Ranchel

Rachel Riggsby

Austin Stephenson

Alyssa Talkington

Macy Toal

Riley Williams

Rani Dawson

Edward Theobald

Dan Toenjes

Kristen Little

Andrew Wilson

Shyan Johnson

Brenna Jenisch

Matthew LaPointe

Victoria Halfmann

Shu Yang

Emma Westin

Ali Whelan

Ian Wohlstadter

Alexandra Reiser

Ronald Wingbermuehle

Ashley Rickert

Curtis Prost

Alexis West

Kaitlyn Tucker

Alison Whelan

Ben Wehner

GLIK'S Visit www.gliks.com to find your nearest location or to shop online

WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

Providing affordable student housing for more than 25 years.

Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place • States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue

Four Horizons Realty
703 N. Marion St.
Kirksville, MO 63501

660-665-RENT

www.4horizonsrealty.com