

W.E. Energies meter likely culpable in house fire

Utility “smart” meter linked to
fire causing \$100,000 in damages

WAUKESHA, WI – Months after a fire
broke out in a suburban Wisconsin home,
an independent investigation and analysis
by safe technology advocacy group Wireless
Action suggests that “smart” meters may to
be blame.

The electric meter was manufactured by
Landis & Gyr, a company whose meters
have previously been linked to fires and
explosions. W.E. Energies states that their
meters “meet all regulations and testing
requirements”, including the Underwriters
Laboratory standards. However, Norman
Lambe, a Californian insurance consultant,
testified before the New Mexico Regulation
Commission in 2016, stating that even
Landis & Gyr meters certified by
Underwriters Laboratory (UL) have caused
fires. Automated metering infrastructure
(AMI) meters, commonly known as “smart”
meters, have been publicly scrutinized on
and off for over a decade.

Josh Hart, director of StopSmartMeters!,
wants consumers to know that customers
have the final say in the equipment that
goes on their home. “These meters are a
serious threat to your health, privacy, and
safety. The utilities do not have any legal
basis to force smart meters on your home –
period.”

Hart recommends concerned
homeowners send a letter to their utility
demanding any digital metering equipment
be replaced with an electromechanical
meter.

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District of Columbia to receive second area code

771 to be overlaid on 202 by 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Since its inception,
202 has been the area code faithfully serving our
nation’s capital. It’s among the 86 original area
codes devised by the Bell System in 1947.
However, it won’t be alone in this endeavor much
longer; within the next 12 months, it will be
joined by a new area code, due to the need for
numbering relief.

With just 23 usable prefixes remaining, the
North American Numbering Plan
Administration (NANPA) determined that
Washington, D.C. was in need of number relief.
NANPA presented its case to the D.C. Public
Service Commission one month ago on
September 1st, outlining the plan for an all-
services overlay, in which customers stay in the
same area code but must dial the full area code
on all local calls.

Starting October 2021, anyone in Washington,
D.C. will need to dial the area code and number
for all calls, local or toll. This ruling dates to a
1996 order by the Federal Communications
Commission which held that “dialing parity”
would be mandatory in overlays, so as to avoid
giving those in the original area code a
competitive advantage. Beginning [], permissive
dialing will begin, during which customers may
dial local calls using seven or ten digits. Once
October 2021 hits, ten digits will be required for
all calls. Those dialing calls with only seven will
be instructed to hang up and dial their call again
with the area code first.

Not everyone is enthused about the idea of an
overlay. The Anti-Digit Dialing League, which
formed in 1962 to oppose the transition from
2L+5N exchange dialing to all-number dialing,

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83 area codes could lose 7-digit dialing by 2022

10-digit dialing to become
mandatory in some areas as
part of 988 rollout

Seven-digit dialing – an invisible
luxury that some take for granted
while others find antiquated – could
soon be going the way of the dodo
bird in 83 area codes in 36 different
states and Guam.

Following an order by the Federal
Communications Commission (FCC)
dating to July 16, 2020, any area
codes that have a 988 prefix (or
telephone exchange) currently in use
will be required to adopt 10-digit
dialing in order to allow for
universal access to the National
Suicide Lifeline by dialing 988, a
new short-code that will route to the
Lifeline, which can be reached
directly at 1-800-273-TALK.

The choice of 988 was not without
its own debate. The North American
Numbering Plan Administration
(NANPA), the FCC, and telephone
providers like AT&T and
CenturyLink disagreed considerably
regarding the implementation. Both
AT&T and CenturyLink felt that
repurposing an N11 code, such as
211, would have allowed for a more
seamless implementation with less
disruption. However, 988 was the
code the FCC and NANPA
ultimately chose.

Because 988 is currently a prefix

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5G protests worldwide Sept. 26th brought yet another International 5G Protest Day

On September 26, 2020, towns and cities
from 25 countries worldwide organized to
protest 5G, the new next-generation
wireless technology currently being
deployed by many countries around the
world.

Organized by Stop 5G International, this
is the fourth Global Protest Day this year.
Protesters are taking to the streets to voice
their objections to the accelerated
deployment of 5G, which in the United
States has been expedited by the Federal
Communications Commission with no
safety testing or consideration for health or
environmental effects.

While wireless carriers have promised
great technological and economic benefits
from 5G, other sources say that 5G may not
be all that it is cooked up to be. In 2017, 180
scientists and doctors from 35 countries
recommended a moratorium on 5G. Since
then, more scientists have signed, with 406
total signatories as of August 27, 2020. An
appeal to stop 5G on earth and in space had
299,889 signatories from 220 nations and
territories as of October 3, 2020.

Zerologon: Massive Windows Server vulnerability

Patch now to avoid critical exploit

A massive vulnerability affecting all versions
of Windows Server has some security experts
calling it one of the serious vulnerabilities in
years.

Rated 10 out of 10 on the CVSS security scale,
CVE-2020-1472, dubbed “Zerologon” is a critical
vulnerability affecting the Netlogon Remote
Protocol. The privilege-escalation bug allows an
unauthenticated attacker with network access to
the domain controller to compromise the entire
Active Directory domain. The vulnerability isn’t
just theoretical – proof-of-concepts are already
circulated on GitHub, and possible exploits in the
wild make this a critical zero-day vulnerability.

Microsoft issued a patch for Windows Server
versions 2019, 2016, 2012, and 2008 R2 in
August during its regular Patch Tuesday
updates. Samba and Opatch have also issued
patches.

Although only domain controllers are directly
affected, any machines relying on domain
controllers for authentication are implicitly
vulnerable by extension, putting hundreds of

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Beginning of the end for DSL

AT&T discontinues new
DSL orders nationwide

Got DSL? If not, you might not be
able to get it anymore. As of October
1, 2020, AT&T is no longer
processing new orders for DSL
service. Existing customers can keep
their DSL – at least for now.

AT&T issued the statement that
“We’re beginning to phase out
outdated services like DSL and new
orders for the service will no longer
be supported after October 1.
Current DSL customers will be able
to continue their existing service or
where possible upgrade to our 100%
fiber network.”

However, AT&T also announced
in 2019 that it is mostly done
expanding its fiber network. As of
June 30, 2019, only 28% of
households in AT&T’s footprint had
fiber-to-the-home (FTTH).

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Nationwide 911 outages increasingly common

CenturyLink failures lead to unanswered emergency calls

Monday, September 28th saw another multi-state 911 outage. According to CenturyLink, in Minnesota, 135 emergency calls to 24 public service answering points (PSAPs) failed to route to a dispatcher.

The exact cause of the multi-state outage is unknown, but CenturyLink did say the issue originated on a partnering vendor's platform when an "internal networking component failed to correctly forward traffic".

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety advised affected residents to dial the department's 10-digit public numbers instead during the outage. 13 other states also experienced outages, some for as long as ninety minutes. Tucson, AZ, also experienced an outage.

This latest of outages is not long after a cascading CenturyLink failure on Sunday, August 30th led to a 3.5% decline in web traffic. Many sites proxied through Cloudflare were temporarily offline.

This is not the first time CenturyLink

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Zerologon

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millions of machines worldwide at risk. It's critical that all Windows Servers be immediately updated to avoid compromising the entire network. Microsoft has already observed attackers targeting the vulnerability using publicly available exploits. The attack can succeed in a matter of seconds, and once it does, it's game over for the network.

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency issued its own alert urging IT administrators to patch all domain controllers immediately. They've created a patch validation script that can quickly detect vulnerable servers. The DHS directed all federal agencies to patch CVE-2020-1472 no later than by the end of September 21. Noncompliant machines were directed to removed from the network.

According to Secura, which published details of the vulnerability, the danger stems from a flaw in a cryptographic authentication scheme used by the Netlogon Remote Protocol. This allows impersonation of any computer, including the domain controller itself, which allows for arbitrary remote procedure calls. The August 11 patch disables unsecured RPC communication. Another patch on February 9, 2020 will require all network devices to use secure-RPC unless an exception is specified.

Secura researcher Tom Tervoot found that due to an insecure use of AES-CFB8B, a client can simply send 8 bytes of zeros and retry it 256 times, bypassing authentication (hence "Zerologon"). Full details of the vulnerability are available at www.secura.com/pathtoimg.php?id=2055

Dialing

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in many area codes, the FCC has directed that these area codes also move to requiring ten-digit dialing for all calls. This affects an unprecedented 83 area codes, which otherwise would continue to retain seven-digit dialing. Of the 360 geographic area codes currently in use, 161 – a little under half – currently allow the use of seven-digit dialing for local calls.

Although 87 area codes actually contain a 988 prefix, 3 of them were already slated to receive overlays and would have moved to ten-digit dialing regardless. Additionally, the 988 exchange in the 904 area codes was returned to the number pool.

The FCC's plan directs that permissive dialing begin on April 24, 2021 in the area codes that will need to move to ten-digit dialing. Permissive dialing will end on October 24, 2021. Implementation enforcement will end on July 15, 2022, and on July 26, 2022, all calls to 988 will be directed to 1-800-273-8255 (TALK).

AT&T and CenturyLink both filed ex-parte filings in the relevant FCC docket, citing concerns that the large number of switch translations required and the shortage of experienced technicians will make it difficult to meet the FCC's deadlines.

Some citizens are concerned, too. The Anti-Digit Dialing League, which was originally formed in 1962 to oppose all-number calling, expressed opposition to plans for ten-digit dialing, solely because of 988. "We firmly oppose all use of overlays, because they mandate ten-digit dialing. We will also oppose other measures which effect the same result. This implementation could be done in a much less disruptive way."

Although 45% of area codes currently retain seven-digit dialing, according to a recent study, only around 40% of Americans dial some or all of their local calls using seven digits – roughly the same proportion of Americans who use a landline with some frequency. A majority expressed support for 988. However, a surprising majority also said it would oppose initiatives like 988 if they interfered with the ability to dial local calls using seven digits.

The Anti-Digit Dialing League, seeking to capitalize on widespread but perhaps unvoiced opposition, has offered three proposals to mitigate the FCC's ruling: reassigning numbers in 988 prefixes and returning 988 to the number pool (as was done in area code 904), imposing a timeout on calls to 988, or only requiring ten-digit dialing in prefixes where 988 is a local call. The A.D.D.L. notes that not all proposals suit each area code equally, and that each state will have its own unique needs.

Although many people will be dismayed at possibly losing seven-digit dialing, there's an upside to living in the modern area. While membership in the ADDL used to cost \$2, it's now handled electronically. Interested parties can join an ADDL chapter near them for free at <https://addl.phreaknet.org>.

Area Codes

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now opposes 10-digit dialing instead. The A.D.D.L. filed comments urging for a split instead of an overlay, so that seven-digit dialing could be retained, stating that "a transition away from seven-digit dialing is a very serious and irreversible decision with significant consequences... Unsurprisingly, public sentiment is largely against 10-digit dialing, which is inconvenient and burdensome". Although splits haven't been commonplace since 2006, Washington D.C. also presents unique constraints. According to Beth Sprague from NANPA, an overlay is the only method permitted in an area that currently has a single area code with all or a majority of prefixes in the same rate center. Although few others filed public comments, most others were supportive of the overlay, although one commenter supported retaining permissive dialing.

A number of other area codes were proposed by local citizens during the hearing. Among them were 282, 495, 852, and 451. However, the choice of area code is up to NANPA, not the D.C. Public Service Commission. NANPA decided to go with 771, which had been reserved for this purpose.

An Area Code Implementation Working Group will be established to educate people about the new area code and dialing procedures. The new area code, 771, will go into effect in late 2021.

Meter

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W.E. Energies does not formally allow Wisconsinites to opt out of smart meters or choose another kind of meter. Their site publicly claims that their meters operate at radiofrequency levels far below limits set by the Federal Communications Commission. However, critical scientists point out these standards are decades old and fail to take into account non-thermal effects and current research. The U.S.'s radiofrequency limits are among the most permissive in the world, and peer-reviewed research has found biological effects at levels well below those permitted by the FCC.

Waukesha fire marshal Brian Charlesworth said in an interview with Wireless Action that he had not observed any fires of this kind before and that the department was not knowledgeable about or aware of smart meters. W.E. Energies said simply "Our company does not have any record of our equipment involved in the fire", which seems to be contradicted by statements in the investigation reports. W.E. Energies declined to comment further.

14-story cell tower pending permit

Wisconsin village to continue discussion at next village meeting

WAUKESHA, WI – The 190-foot monopole proposed by Verizon and Diamond Communications, LLC near Infinity Field, a youth baseball complex owned by 5 Diamonds, will be up for hearing once more on Thursday, October 8, 2020 during the next the Village of Waukesha village meeting.

The village held hearings on August 13 and September 10. At its last meeting, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene the hearing on October 8.

This is not the first time in recent history that there has been opposition to cell towers in Waukesha. In 2016, a 106-foot U.S. Cellular tower was supposed to be installed on El Buen Samaritano United Methodist Church, in the City of Waukesha's Magnolia neighborhood as part of a relocation. Local residents opposed the tower, and the church changed its mind. The church had already entered a contract, but there was significant opposition from local residents who protested, with a local alderman and representative supporting their cause. Months later, an agreement was reached to keep the tower at its current location.

This time around, however, the current location is on W.E. Energies' high-voltage equipment, and W.E. Energies wants Verizon's current antenna there relocated for safety reasons. Remaining at its current location won't be an option this time.

Although many neighbors in the vicinity were opposed to the tower, the same degree of opposition to the tower hasn't surfaced. This may partially be due to COVID-19, which may have made some people less comfortable organizing a protest together. Wisconsin's daily COVID-19 case numbers are currently among the highest in the country.

DSL

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In rural areas, only around 5% of households have access to fiber.

Cable companies like Spectrum will be left the sole provider of new broadband connections in many areas. With no competition from DSL, cable Internet will be the sole form of broadband connectivity for many new subscriptions.

At the same time AT&T is discontinuing new DSL orders, some rural residents still have no broadband access at all. J. Hart, of Plumas County, CA, has been fighting to get basic DSL service from AT&T for years and been consistently refused. He recently purchased a second phone line so he could use dial-up Internet without tying up the phone line that he and his wife share.

The alternative? Pay \$600 a month for a business fiber connection. "While affordable fiber is great, AT&T has refused to provide even basic high-speed broadband connectivity. It's very frustrating," says Hart.

With much of the U.S. no longer having any broadband alternatives to cable Internet – if they're lucky enough to be able to get it – cable companies are likely to continue solidifying their market share.

Putin's computer not running unsupported operating system

Top computer appears to be running Windows 7, not Windows XP

Claims that Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin's computer appeared to be running Windows XP first surfaced back in December 2019, when Russian Open Media claimed photographs published by the Kremlin showed Putin's computer running Windows XP. This claim was picked up by The Moscow Times, Dailymail, and even Forbes and The Guardian.

However, this appears to be little more than a sensationalist claim. Russian media cited the purported bluish tint of the computer's taskbar, vaguely visible in photographs. News agencies around the world echoed the claim without further verification.

However, high-resolution photos directly from the Kremlin contradict this statement. A shot from November 1, 2019 clearly showing the computer's desktop reveals the computer is instead running Windows 7, with the basic theme as opposed to the Aero theme. Icons on the desktop and in the taskbar as well as the date indicator and a visible Start orb further confirm the Kremlin's top PC is running Windows 7, not Windows XP.



During a videoconference with WorldSkills participants. Kremlin. November 1, 2019.

Although Windows XP is no longer supported, Windows 7 will be patched by Microsoft through 2023. Organizations with Extended Security Update agreements will receive all security patches. If the Kremlin already has an agreement with Microsoft, there's no basis to the sensationalist claims that the Kremlin is running outdated versions of Windows. This time, it really is just "fake news".

Still unconvinced? You can check out the photo for yourself at <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61953/photos/61805>

Outages

From Page 2A

has been involved in 911 outages. In 2015, CenturyLink and Intrado paid \$16 million after 6,600 emergency calls were unanswered the previous April. The same companies also paid \$575,000 for a multi-state outage in August 2018. This was followed by another multi-state day-long outage in December 2018 and multiple outages in Arizona earlier in 2020.

CenturyLink's problems with cascading failures reveal that many of the systems we depend on today are increasingly interconnected and vulnerable to issues hundreds or even thousands of miles away. The fragile nature of the United States' 911 infrastructure is dire evidence of that.

End of the line for Flash Player

Adobe to end support by end of 2020

While it has been on the decline for years, Adobe Flash Player is now less than three months away from the end of support. After December 31, 2020, Adobe will no longer update or distribute Flash Player.

Once ubiquitous in the creation of interactive multimedia experiences on the web, Flash has long been superseded by open standards such as HTML5, WebGL, and WebAssembly. Now considered "deprecated", many web browsers now disable the Flash plugin by default. Adobe says users will be asked to uninstall Flash Player later this year.

Microsoft plans to rid Windows of Flash Player as well. It will be removed from the new Chromium-based Microsoft Edge by January 2021, and Internet Explorer 11 and the legacy Microsoft Edge will also no longer receive security updates. An update to completely remove Flash Player will also be made available in the Update Catalog before the end of 2020 and will become optional in Windows Update in early 2021.

With both Adobe and Microsoft aggressively killing off Flash Player, users should ensure that their systems are ready for the changes, particularly if they use pages that still require Flash. Adobe and Microsoft will remove all downloads for Flash-related content after 2020, and Microsoft will remove all APIs, group policies, and user interfaces governing Flash sometime in the summer of 2021 for Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. Microsoft did not say if it will also be removed from Windows 7 through extended security updates.

In the meantime, until December 31, Flash can still be downloaded at <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/otherversions/>

"Facts don't cease to exist just because they are ignored." — Aldous Huxley

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it." — George Orwell

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

LETTERS POLICY: Letters should be typewritten, signed, and include phone number, city, and state. Phone numbers will not be printed when letters appear. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Submit letters at <https://nocarrier.interlinked.us>

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Views expressed in letters to the editor do not reflect those of this publication or its general readership.

Topics are not restricted strictly to the focus of this newspaper, but we may prioritize more relevant letters over less relevant ones if there are space constraints. Well-articulated and thought-provoking letters are encouraged. All political viewpoints are welcome, but we reserve the right to refuse to publish material that is primarily hateful, inciteful, misleading, nonfactual, or inflammatory.

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The EMF Medical Conference 2021, a virtual conference, will convene Jan. 28-31, 2021 to review the latest exposure science. Leading physicians, clinicians, and scientists will conduct presentations on the recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of EMF associated illness. 4 days of learning, 34 lectures, 6 panels, EMF meter workshop. This conference has been approved for 16.5 hours of CME. <https://emfconference2021.com>

Anti-Digit Dialing League. Will you be forced to dial 10 digits locally because of the FCC's 988 order? If so, you are not alone – 83 area codes will be! Join us in our opposition to 10-digit dialing for local calls! We oppose overlays and we are fighting for a more just implementation of 988. Join your local chapter today! addl.phreaknet.org. Dues, none; donations, sought.

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**See page 5A for
Classifieds
submissions
instructions.**

HUMOR



© Go with Flo. 2019.

This notice can now be found in all French churches:

It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God.

On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone.

Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him

If you would like to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

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FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives the press the right to publish news, information and opinions without government interference. This also means people have the right to publish their own newspapers, newsletters, magazines, etc.

SATIRE

Pampers: Earlier and Earlier

In an effort to expedite the eradication of mankind by total sterility, Pampers has joined the growing number of companies using wireless technology to completely eliminate human fertility. To further this cause, they have unveiled Lumi smart diapers, a new and innovative way of reducing sperm and egg count from the get-go.

Pampers enthusiastically announced that this was an unprecedented way of ensuring that all future homo sapiens would be irradiated from the delivery table. "The wireless industry has already managed to get irradiating devices into every adult and teenager's pocket," a Pampers spokesperson announced. "Now, even children have them. People are getting exposed to large doses of RF radiation earlier and earlier in life. Decreasing sperm counts in young men already indicate that phase has largely been a success. The next frontier to conquer, naturally, was the infant years. Unfortunately, not all parents are willing yet to install iPhones into their infant's crib. So, this solution was actually a natural progression from that: every baby needs diapers, so why not install a wireless transmitter in the diaper itself? Until the baby is hold enough to hold a microwave transmitter next to its skull, we're able to ensure that the baby is still getting its daily dose of microwaves."

The wireless industry has already countered, explaining that babies are not supposed to hold iPhones up to their heads — rather, they're supposed to let them sit on their lap, where they can sit right on top of the reproductive organs. "When people hold mobile devices up to their head," FCC head Ajit Pai explained, "they're most directly exposing their brain, which can, at best, lead to brain cancer. The problem is that people with brain cancer are not prevented from copulating. By keeping the devices too heavy for infants to hold, wireless carriers ensure they end up on the infant's lap, where it can then directly radiate the testicles or ovaries. It's a more efficient approach in the long run."

Pampers concurred with Pai's statement, pointing out that the Lumi technology can peacefully coexist with mobile devices in the crib. "The iPhones are most likely going to be sitting on the top of the groin, and likely on top of a diaper or some other clothing. The diapers are underneath and in direct contact with the skin, which gives us a slight advantage. We can increase the likelihood for anal or corectal cancer in a way the wireless carriers could only dream of."

Pamper's diapers have been largely positively received by parents as well. "I don't need to watch my baby anymore either," one Pennsylvanian parent added. "The app lets me know whenever the diaper is full. Now that I don't need to periodically get up to check on him, I can better binge watch Netflix without interruption. Thank you, Pampers!"

However, mobile manufacturers are not yet ready to concede their realm of reproductive harm to a diaper manufacturer. Pampers, in turn, is already researching new and innovative ways to bring the project truly full circle.

"Thanks to our diapers, every human being will be constantly exposed to carcinogenic radiation — from his first diaper out of the womb, to his last cell phone call on his deathbed. The last frontier, now, is the womb, of course. As we like to say, the trend is 'earlier and earlier' exposure. If we could find a cost-effective way to install some kind of transmitter in the womb, to expose the fetus even before delivery — now that, that would be truly revolutionary!"

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