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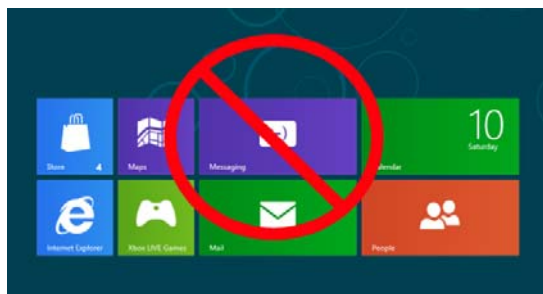
NETWORKING THE  
COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1982

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2013  
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## Windows 8 start menu options

Old habits die hard, and Windows 8's missing Start menu has even some die-hard Windows fans up in arms.

As we wrote last month, the Win8 Metro interface is surprisingly friendly on a touch-screen tablet, especially for anyone who's using a new generation smartphone and is already



accustomed to tapping and swiping.

However, many new laptops and even desktops are being sold with Windows 8, a traditional

keyboard and mouse, and no touch screen – that's a much more challenging transition.

Some disgruntled users are even looking for ways to downgrade Win8 to Win7. That is more easily said than done, and if the computer is new with components optimized for Win8, there will likely be compatibility problems with older software and firmware drivers.

**Fortunately, there are a number of much easier ways to work around this issue.**

1. Win8 users will have noticed a "Desktop" tile on the Metro start screen – clicking that tile launches the familiar XP-Vista-Win7 interface. Or, if you'd like to skip the Metro screen on startup and go directly to the legacy desktop, instructions are described at [www.howtogeek.com/108349/how-to-boot-to-the-desktop-skip-metro-in-windows-8/](http://www.howtogeek.com/108349/how-to-boot-to-the-desktop-skip-metro-in-windows-8/).

2. A number of third-party utilities have emerged to satisfy the wish for a legacy interface that's compatible with Win8. Some are free, while others have a small cost after a free trial. There's a review of several options at [www.crn.com/slide-shows/applications-os/240152470/8-start-menu-replacements-for-windows-8.htm](http://www.crn.com/slide-shows/applications-os/240152470/8-start-menu-replacements-for-windows-8.htm).

These options are easy to implement for those who are comfortable with computers. If you're interested but need help, just call our office.

PS: You can also just wait a bit. "Windows Blue" – the Version 8.1 update due in August – is widely rumored to be addressing these issues and to include a permanent desktop mode.

## OCS announces speed increases

For the past year or so, OCS has been quietly installing new radio equipment on several of our towers and at business customer sites associated with those towers.

We've not only encountered no problems with these new radios, but we've also discovered that they continue to perform better than expected even under the pressure of higher traffic loads and over greater numbers of installations.

Over the years, we've learned that the performance claimed in manufacturers' sales brochures and spec sheets does not always hold up in actual field conditions. Only practical experience can confirm the performance

*Continued on Page Two*

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## OCS announces speed increases

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numbers at which each combination of equipment will function well.

Since we started providing wireless Internet service in the late 1990s, technology has changed and improved dramatically, and it will continue to do so. The new equipment we've been trying out is simply the latest in a long line.

We're now sufficiently confident that we can announce fairly substantial increases for all of our business plans – **50-75% more speed and 100% more bandwidth** than our original monthly usage limits (see table below).

Please note that these increases are currently limited to business accounts only, and they may not yet be available in all areas.

Eventually, as time permits, we intend to make these improvements available over as much of our network as possible, and some residential users will also see speed increases in the near future.

### Fan Mail



*"You have a first-class company. It seems in today's world that customer service is a thing of the past. This is not so with OCS, you are a one-in-a-million company." -EH*

## Tablets to outsell laptops

Going beyond previous estimates, market research firm IDC said it expects that tablet computers will outsell laptops this year.

Tablets were already on pace to beat sales of desktop computers: by 2015, IDC said, tablets will have more market share than the entire traditional PC market.

"Tablets surpassing portables in 2013, and total PCs in 2015, marks a significant change in consumer attitudes about computing devices and the applications that power them," said Ryan Reith, program manager for IDC's Mobility Trackers.

Reith said PCs will remain important to business users, but as many companies switch from clipboards and paper to tablets, the tablet market is expected to grow even faster.

For regular consumers, Reith said, tablets are proving to be suitable replacements for basics such as checking email and browsing the Web.

The slowdown in PC sales is partially attributed to consumers delaying purchases of traditional computers until absolutely necessary, while instead choosing to try out tablets.

**HP CEO Meg Whitman** was asked in a recent CRN interview whether some of the lack of sales in PCs has been as a result of Windows 8?

She replied, "On the consumer side, perhaps. The press about Windows 8 has not been perfect and the experience is confusing. There is no question about it.

"[But] I don't see that as an issue in the enterprise. Our experience is the enterprise and medium businesses and even small businesses, they are probably going to go [to] Win7. We don't see a big demand for Windows 8 in business.

"So my view is that the XP upgrade cycle" (XP has less than one year of official support remaining from Microsoft) "is all going to go to Windows 7, while very little of it is going to go to Windows 8."

## OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds			Monthly Usage <sup>1</sup>	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		
	Min	Typ	Max			Installation	Equipment Deposit <sup>2</sup>	Monthly Service <sup>3</sup>
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>								
Basic	125K	500K	750K	12GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	20GB	5			79.95
<b>BUSINESS</b>								
Business	500K	2.5M	3.5M	40GB	10			129.95
Professional	750K	3.5M	4.5M	50GB	25			159.95
Corporate	1M	4.5M	6M	60GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	1.5M	6.5M	8M	80GB	40			249.95
<b>MOUNTAINS</b>								
Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson	125K	375K	750K	8GB	5			69.95

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.

2. Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon termination of service after one year.

3. For areas served by Blue Ridge tower, add \$10 monthly rural service fee.

### I Didn't Know That!

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