



from guest columnist  
**Eric Spellmann**

## Google Desktop – Information at Your Fingertips

Google continues to amaze me. They are now going toe-to-toe with Microsoft and a host of other companies, hoping to capture consumer market share. And as Microsoft and these other companies are discovering, competing with this giant is very difficult and costly. Google's sheer wealth allows it to "give away" previously charged-for services, creating an enticement most people can't ignore.

A good example is their recent roll-out of Google Desktop (<http://desktop.google.com>). Divided into two major sections, this set of programs adds some exciting capabilities to your PC or Mac.

**Desktop Search** Imagine being able to search for any keyword in any document or e-mail within seconds. That's the magic of Google Desktop Search. Basically, Google installs a smaller version of its monstrous Internet indexing system on your PC. When you aren't using your PC, it scans and indexes all of your documents and e-mail messages. Then, when you need to search for, say, all documents that mention a particular company, your system can instantly create a list of matches. No more hour glass!

Before you start sending me messages, let me clarify one point: Google does NOT store any of the contents of your files on its servers. The database exists only on your system and is only available to you.

**Sidebar with Gadgets** The other half of Google's offering is more fun. Windows Vista and Mac users will immediately recognize what is now being offered to XP users: gadgets. When installed, this program runs on the right-hand side of your screen. You can easily add "gadgets", little programs that perform singular tasks, to this sidebar.

Examples of popular gadgets include programs to show weather, stocks, and news headlines. These little gadgets sit quietly while you work, updating their information in the background. A quick glance is all it takes to get you up to speed on the information you need.

Of course, many more gadgets are being designed every day to meet more specific needs. I've seen cute programs that constantly monitor your laptop's battery life, wireless signal strength, and CPU utilization. Other gadgets keep you updated on your favorite social sites, like YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook.

Both Desktop Search and Google's Gadgets make this download worth your time. One warning, though: if you're not careful, you will run out of space on your desktop downloading all of these wonderful gadgets! Enjoy!

Eric Spellmann is the Owner and President of Spellmann & Associates, a technology company offering employee training, website design, PC repair, and network maintenance. He is a featured speaker at a number of state and national technology conferences and writes a syndicated column in fourteen newspapers. In addition, he produces a weekly television segment for his local ABC affiliate. To contact him, visit his website, [www.EricSpellmann.com](http://www.EricSpellmann.com)

## 911 and the Wireless Cell Phone

A wireless cell phone is in nearly every pocket or purse across the nation these days. They are no longer a luxury, but a necessity in the hustle and bustle of daily life! Instant communication is the way of the world and having a wireless cell phone also provides many of us with a sense of security -- we all want to be able to get in touch with family, friends, or services quickly when an emergency arises.

The number of 911 calls placed by people using a wireless cell phone has more than doubled since 1995, to over 50 million a year. Public safety personnel estimate that about 30 percent of the millions of 911 calls they receive daily are placed from wireless phones, and that percentage is growing.

For many Americans, the ability to call 911 for help in an emergency is one of the reasons they own a wireless phone. While wireless phones can be an important public safety tool, they also create unique challenges. Because wireless phones are mobile, they are not associated with one fixed location or address. A caller using a wireless phone could be calling from anywhere. While the location of the cell site closest to the caller may provide a very general indication of the caller's location, that information is not always specific enough for rescue personnel to deliver assistance to the caller without additional information.

### Tips for 911 Calling from a Wireless Phone

Follow these tips for calling 911 from a wireless phone and this will assist public safety personnel respond to your emergency quickly.

- Tell the emergency operator the location of the emergency right away.
- Give the emergency operator your wireless phone number so that, if the call gets disconnected, the operator can call you back.
- Refrain from programming your phone to automatically dial 911 when one button, such as the "9" key, is pressed. Unintentional wireless 911 calls, which often occur when auto-dial keys are inadvertently pressed, cause problems for emergency call centers.
- If your wireless phone came pre-programmed with the auto-dial 911 feature already turned on, turn off this feature. Check your user manual to find out how.
- Lock your keypad when you're not using your wireless phone. This action also prevents accidental calls to 911.

Note: Reference for this article – [www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/wireless911srvc.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/wireless911srvc.html)

## Don't Jump Ship Because You Think We Don't Have It! Tell Us What You Need!

Need wireless service? Need more minutes? Need a specific phone or accessories? Need wireless data? Need insurance for your wireless phone? Need text messaging? Need local phone service? Need voice mail? Need caller ID? Need call waiting? Need long distance? Need high speed Internet? Need TV cable? Need to pay your bill by bank draft or credit card? Need a technician's assistance? Need repairs? Need to know how something works? Please ask!

XIT is a full-service communications company. We need to know! What are your communications needs today? What are your future communications needs? To continue to serve you with the latest and greatest and invest in state-of-the-art technology to serve this area, we need to know what you need and want. Call or visit us, today! Better yet, email us at [xitcom@xit.net](mailto:xitcom@xit.net).

is a quarterly publication for XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. members, XIT Communications and XIT Wireless Customers.

Direct correspondence to:  
XIT Connections  
Attn: Marketing Department  
P.O. Box 711  
Dalhart, TX 79022

or e-mail to [xitcom@xit.net](mailto:xitcom@xit.net)

[www.xit.net](http://www.xit.net)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PANHANDLE  
PRESORT  
SERVICES, LTD

12324 US Highway 87  
Dalhart, TX 79022



2	NEW XIT Communications' Regional Directory Available Late July
3	XIT Raises Another Wireless Tower in East Sherman County
7	911 and the Wireless Cell Phone

Volume XI Number 3 Summer 2008



## XIT Wireless Sets Final TDMA Turn Down Date

XIT Wireless has sent a letter of notification to all our TDMA customers that we will begin the turn down of our old analog/TDMA wireless technology on July 31, 2008. This means, if you are still carrying cell phones that rely solely on analog or TDMA technology, these phones will no longer work shortly after this date.

As you may have experienced, the TDMA wireless roaming went away earlier this year with the turn down of our neighboring carriers' systems (AT&T, Dobson, PTCI and associated links with Plateau Wireless). Currently your old analog/TDMA cell phones will only work in your local XIT service area. It's time to upgrade!

We value all of our wireless customers and want to make your transition to GSM technology as simple as possible. We have a large selection of GSM phones and accessories from which to choose. We even have a GSM bag phone and permanent mount option.

In our efforts to increase coverage and improve signal strength, XIT has added numerous GSM cell sites. We currently have over 40 towers with plans to add more!

XIT has several competitive GSM rate plans to fit your budget and your lifestyle. These plans offer more minutes, regional and nationwide roaming with no long distance charges, unlimited night and weekend minutes, FREE XIT mobile to XIT mobile calling, family add-on plans and more. XIT also offers a variety of text messaging and data plans.

If you need assistance in evaluating your wireless needs, we have representatives who will work with you one-on-one. Please call or visit your local XIT Retail Store for more details.

## NEW 967 and 394 Prefixes Available in Vega and Hereford

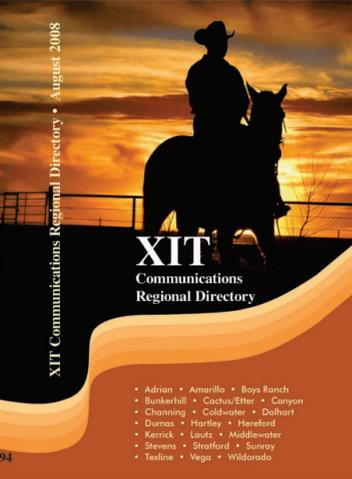
With the rollout of unlimited local phone service in Vega and Hereford, Texas, XIT Communications will offer new telephone prefixes in these markets: **967 in Vega and 394 in Hereford**. When customers convert their local phone service to XIT Communications from their existing carrier, they have the option of keeping their existing telephone number and porting it to XIT (Local Number Portability – LNP), or they can retain the last four digits of their old telephone number and go with the NEW 967 or 394 prefix. Customers in these markets will be notified when the service is available in their area.

## A Television Revolution is Underway

On February 17, 2009, full-power analog television broadcasts will cease and many TV sets will no longer be able to receive over-the-air signals. That date will mark the completion of a transition to digital TV or DTV, mandated by Congress.

DTV is an advanced technology that allows broadcasters to provide higher quality pictures and sound, as well as advanced services such as transmission of multiple video streams or other data over a single channel. DTV also makes more efficient use of the airwaves, and the Federal Communications Commission will make the airwaves that are freed up by this transition available for advanced communications services for commercial and public safety use.

*continued page 5*



**XIT**  
Communications  
Regional Directory

• Addison • Amarillo • Boys Ranch  
• Bucklehorn • Goshute/Elmer • Canyon  
• Channing • Coldwater • Dalhart  
• Dumas • Hartley • Hereford  
• Kerick • Lovelock • Middlewater  
• Stevens • Stratford • Sunray  
• Texline • Vega • Wildorado

## NEW XIT Communications' Regional Directory Available Late July

XIT's 2008 telephone directory will start being delivered in the region the week of July 21st. You should receive one copy in the mail. Upon your request, additional copies will be available at each of XIT's stores and through your local chamber of commerce office.

XIT would like to recognize Linda Childers, who now resides in Stephenville, Texas for the beautiful picture she provided for this year's directory cover. The picture was taken of her husband, Terry, when they lived between Etter and Dalhart. That particular day, the wind had been blowing all day long (imagine that), but when it began to

calm down in the evening, a gorgeous West Texas sunset began to grace the sky. Linda took dozens of shots to get this great silhouette of Terry on his horse. She commented, "I had to lay on my stomach to get the angle I wanted." Thank you, Linda. It was definitely worth your effort.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank directory advertiser, Griff Lasley, owner of A&I Parts Center, for his attractive ad which graces the outside back cover of our directory. A special thanks also goes to the Dallam/Hartley Counties Hospital District and Dalhart Area Healthcare Providers for their colorful and informative ads on the inside front and back covers of our directory and all the other businesses who advertise in the yellow and white pages of our directory. Your advertising dollars make it possible for us to provide a quality telephone directory for this region.

When you receive your directory this year, take the time to "check it out"! Don't forget that Amarillo and Canyon listings are provided in the back of the book. The handy Numerical Listing Section is in the front of the book. This is the section where you can look up to whom a particular number belongs. Local and state government pages are also in the front – along with an area code maps – emergency contact numbers – Yours Rights as a Customer – Special Help Programs – a Calling Features Guide and much more.

We are always looking for ways to improve the directory. Please "check it out", and let us know what you think. You can call, visit your local XIT store or email us at [xitcom@xit.net](mailto:xitcom@xit.net).



## Attention Vega Customers ...

Good News! XIT Communications will have a temporary office located right there in Vega. It will be located at 900 Main Street in the City Hall Building. You will be able to contact this office by calling the local telephone number 967-3355 during business hours. For your convenience, we will have an employee available a couple days a week. More specific hours will be set up at a later date. Stay tuned for the details!

Vega's Channel 6 is now Channel 19. It hasn't gone away! It's just moved. Call the local XIT number 967-3355. If it's more convenient, just shoot us an email addressed to [channel19@xit.net](mailto:channel19@xit.net) to include information previously placed on Channel 6 in Vega.



## XIT Raises Another Wireless Tower in East Sherman County

The tower construction is complete for a new wireless tower in East Sherman County. The 180' tower is located next to the intersection of County Road W and County Road 24, 15 miles northeast of Sunray. The tower is operational as of June 25th.



## XIT Wireless Constructing Tower in Dallam County

XIT has recently started the construction of yet another wireless tower at the intersection of Highway 102 and McAdams Road just 2 miles east of the New Mexico state line. XIT's Network and Switching Manager, Gary Hall, reports that the anchor holes for this tower are 23' deep and 5' 6" across. He said that it took approximately 70 yards of concrete to fill the three anchor holes. This site will be known as the Lottawater Site. The tower will replace the temporary COW (Cell on Wheels) that was at this location.

With the addition of the East Sherman County and Lottawater Sites, XIT Wireless has 41 GSM towers in its 6-county, approximately 7500 square-mile wireless service area.

## Do-Not-Call Registrations - Will Not Expire

Telephone numbers placed on the National Do-Not-Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. More than 157 million phone numbers are on the National Do-Not-Call Registry.

Under the Act, the Federal Trade Commission will continue to remove telephone numbers that have been disconnected and reassigned to other customers. Consumers can add or delete their telephone numbers from the registry at any time by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236) – the call must be made from the telephone number they wish to delete.

## XIT Customers ... We Need Your Help!

We are in the process of updating all of our customers' contact and personal information in our databases. *We really need your help!* This information is kept in strict confidence and is not shared with anyone other than who is authorized on the account. We never share this information with outside sales or marketing sources. It is used to help XIT contact our customers regarding important notifications, updates or changes in your service accounts. It also helps us to provide security to you, our valued customer, through proper personal identification.

In the next few weeks, we will mail out a Customer Contact and Personal Information Update Form. We ask that you fill it out completely and either mail it back to our Dalhart office with your bill payment, or return it to any of our XIT stores in Dalhart, Dumas, Hereford or Stratford at your earliest convenience.

### Reminder...

If you have not provided XIT with your Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI), we encourage you to provide this information also at your earliest convenience. XIT is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to protect our customers' account information. We must have a password and secret question on file for each of our customers in order for you or any other individuals on the account to access records or change existing plans or features on the account. We are required by the FCC to follow strict rules when customers call or come into our stores requesting access to account information. So, please, help us simplify the whole process by setting up your password and secret question at your earliest convenience.



## ICE – In Case of Emergency

ICE could save your life.....

- You're in an accident and rendered unconscious?
- You're at work or out shopping and become incapacitated?

You never know when you could be in one of these situations. ICE – In Case of Emergency could save your life one day. ICE is a campaign that allows quick access to the right name or names in your cell phone address book for emergency contact. It was developed by a paramedic in England who realized that most of his patients carried a cell phone. He started a campaign to get all people who carried a cell phone to program ICE in their phone for emergency contact numbers.

ICE is simple and costs nothing to set up. Simply follow the steps below.

- Access the address book feature of your cell phone.
- Add a new contact.
- Enter the name ICE – Mom, ICE – Dan, etc... or both.
  - It is also a good idea to put a period in front of the acronym, ICE. Your entry would then read .ICE-Mom. What this does is creates your emergency contact to be the first number to pull up in your address book for quick and easy access.
- Enter the phone number of your spouse, parent or whoever needs to know about you in case of emergency.
- Save the new contact to your cell phone.

If you have trouble setting this up or are not sure how to access your address book, please contact your nearest XIT Wireless retail store location.

## The transition to DTV is underway now.

*How do I know if I'm Ready for the DTV Transition?*

If you subscribe to XIT's TV Cable Service, there is nothing for you to do except to enjoy your favorite programming after the switch to digital TV (DTV). XIT will take care of the transition for you! That's because XIT has already invested in the technology to convert local TV stations from the digital picture to be able to work with your current TV set. XIT does so by capturing and converting these digital signals and then sending them to your home through the same cable you have today. As long as your TV sets are connected to XIT's cable, they should display local television stations.

*Will I still be able to use my analog television set?*

If you rely on an outside antenna or indoor "rabbit ears" to receive broadcasting signals through your analog television, you can use a digital-to-analog converter. If your analog television is connected to a set-top box provided by XIT, then you will not need a converter.

*How do I tell if I have an analog or digital television set?*

Since March 1, 2007, all new TV sets have been required to include a digital receiver. In addition, since May 25, 2007, retailers have been required by law to prominently label any analog-only TV remaining in stock.

If you have an older TV, then you should check the labeling on the TV set or the manual that came with the TV to determine if it has a digital tuner. If you still are unable to determine what type of tuner you have, you should ask your electronics retailer or manufacturer for information about your specific TV model.

*What if I have a "Digital Ready" or "HDTV Ready" TV?*

These labels do not mean you have a digital receiver. You will likely need a separate set-top box with a tuner in order to view DTV programs.

*How can I obtain a digital-to-analog converter?*

If you require digital-to-analog converters for your analog TVs, you may purchase them from your electronics retailer.

In order to assist with the transition to DTV, Congress has established a program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help with the purchase of converter boxes. Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, each U.S. household is eligible to obtain up to two coupons worth \$40.00 each to be used towards the purchase of certain converters at participating retailers. You should not request your coupons until you are ready to buy your converters, since the coupons expire 90 days after they are issued.

*How can you learn more?*

Information about the DTV transition is available from [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

Per FCC DTV Consumer Education Initiative: After February 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.



## A Trip to Remember...

by Nathan Paschel

First, I would like to thank the people at XIT Communications for allowing me to take the FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. It was truly an honor to be chosen for this trip.

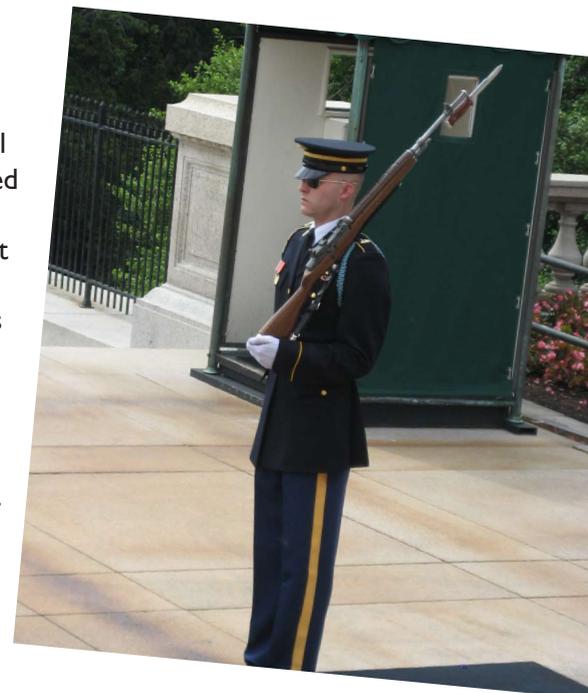
It was a very fun and educational experience, and one I will always remember.

The trip was exciting from the very beginning as this was my first experience at flying. On the plane, I sat next to a nice elderly lady that told me all about her grandkids, life insurance and early retirement. As we exited the plane, the woman proceeded to tell her relatives about “what a nice kid she sat next to on the plane”.

Now, let me proceed with the rest of the story. I arrived in Washington, D.C. at 4 p.m. and immediately met up with a small group that arrived at the same time. The rest of that day was spent at the hotel meeting other kids as they arrived. In all, 100 kids made up the trip and numerous sponsors. Only three participants were from Texas, including myself; one from Muleshoe, and one from Comfort.

Our day started off visiting the Arlington National Cemetery. It’s a cemetery, much bigger than I had pictured, with thousands of identical markers placed on rolling hills. Next, we visited the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Both of these sites were truly a moving experience. At the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we witnessed the changing of the guards, which takes place 24 hours a day, every 30 minutes, and 365 days a year. It’s a very solemn and moving event.

Later in the day, we went to the National Mall. This is a part of Washington, D.C. where the Smithsonian Museums are located in addition to various monuments and the Capital



## A Trip to Remember...

*Continued from page 3*

Nathan highly recommends this trip to next year’s high school juniors and suggests that they contact their high school counselor or local XIT store to get an application. Applications are usually made available sometime in January. The deadline for applying is usually toward the end of March, each year. All 2009 high school juniors, who live in XIT’s 6-county serving area and subscribe to at least one XIT service, are eligible to apply for this all-expense-paid trip of a lifetime – the annual Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Applicants are required to fill out a short application and write a short essay on one of the following topics: How Telecommunications Has Impacted Your Life in Rural Texas – What Would My Life Be Like Without a Telephone? – Why Should You Be Selected to Participate in the 2008 Youth Tour? – If You Could Use Only One Form of Telecommunication – Landline, Wireless, Internet – What Would You Choose and Why?

Ok, 2009 juniors, this could be your trip to remember next year! You won’t want to miss this opportunity!

*continued on page 2*



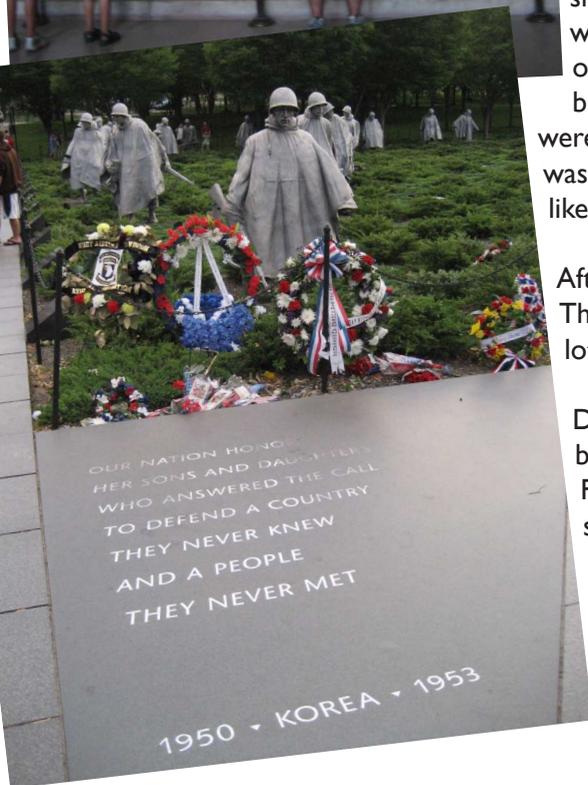
Building. The 100 participants and sponsors were allowed to divide into various groups and each group could go to whatever site they chose in the National Mall. My group chose to visit the Air and Space Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Archives. The Archives is where all the historic documents are located. I saw the original copy of the Declaration of Independence and The Bill of Rights. We ate supper at the Hard Rock Café. Then, we returned to the National Mall to visit the War Memorials and Monuments. We visited the Lincoln Monument. Lincoln is much bigger than I ever thought. He's huge. We saw the War Memorials including the Korean, Vietnam and World War II. My favorite was the World War II. It was cool looking. This ended Day 2.



The second day began with an educational session entitled, "The World of Telecommunications" at the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) located in Washington, D.C. They discussed the advancements in rural service such as telephone, internet and other services and how these services are provided to rural residents. After this, we visited Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. We were allowed to tour the inside of the house, in addition to horse barns and other sites on his estate. Next, on the schedule, we visited the National Cathedral. It was really amazing inside, with huge pillars and lots of stained glass windows. Our tour guide pointed out that one of the windows holds a rock that was brought from the Moon. Inside the cathedral were many small chapels. The whole cathedral was built out of limestone from Illinois. I really liked the National Cathedral. It was cool!

After the cathedral, the group went bowling. That was time to relax with friends. That was a lot of fun. This ended Day 3 of the trip.

Day 4, the last day of our Washington tour, began with an educational session at the FCC (Federal Communications Commission). We listened to a presentation on current technology and telecommunications for rural areas. We ate lunch at the ESPN Zone. After lunch, we took a group picture on the steps of the Capital.



Then, we visited the Hart Senate Building, where we listened to the senator from South Dakota discussing with the group what his job as senator involved. After this discussion, we were given free time. Myself, and the other two kids from Texas located the office of our Texas Senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison. But, we were unable to see her, as she was out of the office. Our next stop was the Library of Congress. I really liked this building. It was very fancy and had cool architecture.

The last day of our tour finished with a nice dinner and dance.

I met a lot of really cool people from across the United States. One of the really fun things was the different accents people spoke. All the people from the north went home talking like southerners. Everyone was saying words like "fixin" and "gonna" and "y'all." It was so fun! Thank you, XIT, for a trip I will never forget.

continued on page 4

