

Technology News Letter

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SPECIAL EDITION

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Our Mission is to use our wisdom and integrity to manifest solutions that result in a successful more profitable operation for our customers.

Are YOU Ready for More Area Codes?

Brace yourself! We are about to experience a change in the way we all make phone calls in the greater Chicagoland area specifically the region we now know as the 630 area code. Due to the growth of suburban Chicagoland (especially DuPage County) combined with cellular phone demand; the area code 630 has become exhausted of available numbers. Beginning October 7, 2007 the new overlay area code, 331 is going to be introduced in this region. The new area code will NOT affect existing published phone numbers, but will impact any new phone line orders placed after that date. Additionally, it will be necessary to dial 1+10 digits (1.630.925.4455) when placing a call in the entire 630/331 area, even if the terminating address is in the same building or across the street.

Did You Know?

The Toll-Free numbers in the North American Numbering Plan (NANP), called 800 numbers, were first established in 1967 when they first introduced the area code 800. The 888 area code was added in 1996, 877 in 1998, and 866 in 2000. The following area codes are reserved but not yet in use; 855, 844, 833 and 822. When toll-free numbers were first established they were know as WATS (wide area telephone service) lines. **information about 800 service history reference from Wikipedia.org**

How Will the Area Code Overlays Affect Me?

The most common inconvenience will be getting used to dialing 1+10 digits when calling within your own area code. However, for the growing businesses requiring blocks of DID's (Direct Inward Dial) lines this can prove to be a real nuisance if a portion of your DID's are 630 and the new numbers ordered after Oct. 7 turn out to be 331. In this case inner office communications can be affected while employees get used to the new dial plan configurations. DID's are very inexpensive, because of this we recommend buying a block of extra numbers prior to the deadline (DID's range in price but they average around 0.10 cents each). Another solution for businesses that end up with a split block is to keep their main published numbers in the 630 area code and order new DID numbers for the staff to keep a common area code for intra-office communication continuity.

Food for Thought. Just like a business who publishes a 800 toll-free area code (versus 888, 877 or 866) is perceived to be a more established business, businesses who have a 630 area code are going to be perceived by their prospects that they have been in business longer than a competitor publishing a 331 area code.

One final potential issue to be aware of is you may need to have your phone system programmed or upgraded for the new area code dial plan. Newer systems should be able to adapt for this area code addition fairly automatically, but the older systems may need software or hardware upgrades to adapt. Call your phone system service provider to see if you are prepared for the new area code overlay.

Do You Know Who Your Phone Company Is?

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that we all end up where we began only to know the place for the first time. I wonder if this revelation has dawned on AT&T. Here is the "full circle" journey for our incumbent local exchange carrier: AT&T became Illinois Bell. Illinois Bell then became Ameritech. Ameritech acquired Centel and then Ameritech was bought by SBC. SBC acquired Bell South, Pac-Bell and then they acquired AT&T and decided to keep the AT&T name. During this last acquisition AT&T sold their wireless division to Cingular (formerly Cell One) and then Cingular was acquired by the new SBC Company who bought AT&T and they had to change the name back to AT&T. Finally, AT&T sold their @home cable TV service to Comcast to get out of the Cable TV market, but now they offer cable TV services once again. What?!?! Based on their past I will predict that AT&T will acquire Comcast and the circle will be complete. Click here for applicable supporting reference documentation: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At%26t>

It has taken AT&T 20 years to end up where they began, but do they know their customer for the first time? The real question above should be; Does Your Phone Company Know Your Company?

To find out more contact Airdis Telecom at: (630) 925-4446

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