

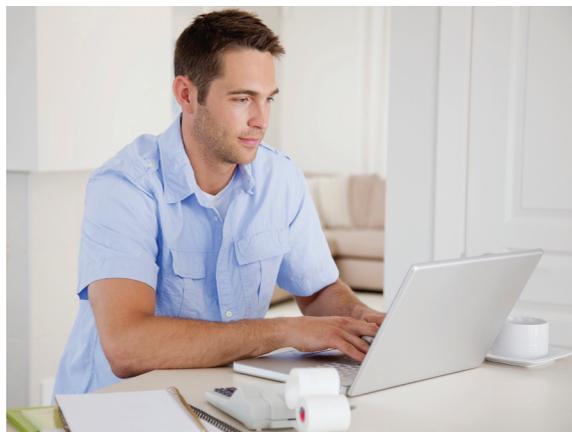


## Why Does Our Internet Service Require Landline Service?

Recently Huxley Communications announced changes to the way we structure and sell our products and packages. One of the major modifications is that we now require internet and some cable TV subscriptions to include a phone line.

Many of you have asked Huxley Communications why you must subscribe to landline phone service to receive some other services. This requirement stems from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

The FCC continues to base the Universal Service Fund (USF) reimbursement on local phone line subscriptions. The USF is a government-administered fund to support the provision of telecommunications services in rural and high-cost areas, to low-income consumers, and to schools, libraries, and health care facilities nationwide. Huxley Communications and all other wireline and wireless companies must contribute to this fund. The collected funds are 'pooled' and overseen by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and then commonly distributed by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), which is an American association of telephone common carriers.



Universal Service is not a new concept or fund. In fact, the existing template for the USF began with the Communications Act of 1934, which created the FCC and set a mandate that adequate telecommunications be available to all citizens of the United States. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 further established the core principles that guide Universal Service.

If Huxley Communications did not require a phone line subscription, we would not receive the USF funding and would have to increase the rates for our internet and other services to compensate for the actual cost of supplying services to our rural, high-cost communities.

**For more information about Universal Service and other policies governing telecommunications, please visit [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).**

### HUXLEY HAPPENINGS

**Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24**  
Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**Friday, December 15**  
Huxley Communications  
Holiday Open House

**Friday, December 22**  
Office closes at 3pm

**Monday, December 25**  
Office Closed  
for Christmas

**Monday, January 1**  
Office Closed for  
New Year's Day



### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Huxley Communications**  
P.O. Box 36 • Huxley, IA 50124  
515-597-2281 or 800-231-4922  
[www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net)  
[huxtel@huxcomm.net](mailto:huxtel@huxcomm.net)

**Free Internet Tech Support**  
515-597-HELP (4357) • Available 24/7

**Report an Outage**  
515-597-2281

**Call Before You Dig**  
Iowa One Call • 800-292-8989

**Gary Clark**  
*General Manager*

**Connie Patrick**  
*Business Office Manager*

**Terry Ferguson**  
*Director of Operations*

**Brant Strumpfer**  
*Plant Manager*

## FALL 2017



## CATCH ALL THE ACTION WITH



NFL RedZone takes you from game to game to see the most exciting plays as they happen!

Catch all your favorite teams and players live in HD every Sunday afternoon during the season — all on one channel.

- Every touchdown from every game Sunday afternoon
- Live in HD during the NFL season, from the start of the 1pm ET games through the end of the late afternoon games
- Includes up-to-the minute fantasy stats, extended highlights and much more
- Hosted by Scott Hanson
- NFL RedZone is the perfect fantasy companion, allowing fans to improve their fantasy roster

Sign up today at [huxcomm.net](http://huxcomm.net) or call 597-2281!

# Let Smart Home Technology Automate and Elevate Your Holiday

You're probably aware that smart home technology can help you remotely manage your home's systems such as lighting, appliances, and the thermostat. But did you know this technology can also be used to enhance your holiday decorations and impress your holiday guests?

**Consider these examples of smart new ways to tech the halls:**

### App-Connected Outlets

These devices plug into your home's regular outlets to control small appliances and lights. Add an app-connected outlet behind your Christmas tree to avoid climbing under the branches and control the lights via your smartphone or tablet instead. The same goes for your home's outdoor holiday lights.

### Lights in Sync With Your Songs

Thanks to home automation, you can easily take your holiday decorating to the next level. Technology is available to sync your lights to your holiday playlist, customize your holiday tunes to play at certain times of the day, and control the light patterns and colors from a mobile device.

### Web Cams to Capture Holiday Moments

Affordable webcams are a popular part of smart home systems. Sure, they are great for safety and security all year long. But during the holiday season, your web cams could record Santa's late-night visit or let you know if the kids are peeking at their presents early.

### Voice-Enabled Digital Assistants

Think of these devices as "digital elves" that work with many smart home gadgets and applications. You just talk to them and say what you want, such as "Play Santa Clause is Comin' to Town" while you're wrapping gifts or "Set the oven timer for 10 minutes" while you're baking cookies.

Don't settle for a ho-hum holiday when today's smart home technology can make it a ho-ho-ho lot more exciting. Have some fun exploring all the possibilities this year!

**Huxley Communications offers the high-speed internet plans you need to support smart home devices. To learn more, visit [www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net).**



# Wander Through Websites and Whip Up Wonderful Food

You'll probably be doing more cooking and baking during the holiday season due to gatherings at your home as well as potlucks elsewhere. If you're getting bored with the "same old, same old" recipes, there's a delicious assortment of new ones waiting for you online.

Here's just a taste of what's available:

## foodnetwork.com

To get expert ideas, check out the top recipes from popular Food Network chefs including Bobby Flay, Ina Garten, and Ree Drummond. This site also features a huge recipe collection categorized by type of event/season and main ingredient as well as recipes to meet special dietary requirements. Don't miss the how-to videos to help improve your cooking skills.

## allrecipes.com

You'll find a feast for the eyes at allrecipes.com, due to all of the food photos. Tell at a glance how each dish looks, what ingredients it features, and how many stars reviewers gave it. Prepare to get hungry after a minute of browsing!

## eatingwell.com

You don't have to give up your healthy eating goals over the holidays. This site has recipe collections for "Healthy Thanksgiving" and "Healthy Christmas Holiday," where you'll find nutrient-rich and lower-calorie recipes that will still be hits with family and friends.

## myrecipes.com

Their Thanksgiving content includes everything from "5-Star Turkeys" to "Best-Ever Pumpkin Desserts," so there's no excuse for not bringing something new to the table. When it's time for Christmas in the kitchen, browse through recipes for impressive appetizers, festive cookies and cakes, and much more.

**Don't forget – for the best online experiences, the essential ingredient is fast internet service. To find out about our available speeds and prices, call Huxley Communications at 515-597-2281.**



## Look at Your Picture Taking From a New Angle

If you usually just line up your family members in front of the Christmas tree after presents are opened with a quick "Smile and say cheese," you may want to shake things up a bit. Try these more creative approaches to picture taking:

- **Shoot moments, not poses.** Be more discreet when you take photos, and try to capture people being themselves – talking, laughing, and so on.
- **Don't forget the preparation stage.** The activities that happen before the big holiday gathering begins can make for interesting photos, such as food preparation, putting up decorations, and wrapping presents.
- **Move around.** Experiment with taking photos from different places and different angles. Stand on a chair to get a bird's-eye view. Or get down on the floor and shoot up at the scene.

With that said, it's also important to know when to put your camera or smartphone down. There's a time for picture taking and a time to simply focus on being with friends and family.



## Why Talking on the Phone Can Be Better Than Texting

Despite the convenience of texting, certain situations simply call for a phone call. If you're texting more than calling these days, you may want to reconsider after reviewing these phone call advantages:

### **You hear the tone of voice for more straightforward communication.**

During a phone call, it's usually easy to determine the other person's mood or intent based upon the way the words are spoken. Text messages, by contrast, often become guessing games. Is he serious or joking? What does that emoji mean? This can lead to miscommunication and hurt feelings.

### **A phone call is more personal.**

There's something about hearing the voice of someone you care about that can't be replicated in written form. Think about it: Would you rather hear the sound of someone's laughter or read "Ha, ha, ha" in a text? When you're on a call, it feels more like being in the same room together.

### **The conversation has a definite end.**

There's no ambiguity with a phone call. When the conversation is over, the call ends. But with texting, the conversation may meander on for hours with unpredictable stops and starts.

### **Talking can be much more efficient (and less tiring).**

Tapping letters on a keyboard becomes annoying when you and the other person have a whole lot to discuss. Save the effort and make a phone call instead, since your mouth can move faster than your fingers. To prove this point, read this paragraph out loud. Let's say that took you 15 seconds to complete. Now grab your smartphone and enter the same words as a text message. Which was faster?

**Huxley Communications believes in the power of the human voice and encourages you to incorporate phone calls into your regular routine. Visit [www.huxcomm.net](http://www.huxcomm.net) for details on our selection of voice services.**

## Legally Download Movies, Music, and TV Shows

With so many options out there for accessing digital entertainment, it can be confusing to determine what's legal and what's not. However, it's important to be informed so you stay within legal parameters and don't engage in copyright infringement. As a start, review these guidelines:

- **Watch for titles that are "too new to be true."** Movies that have yet to be released in theaters, or which are still out in theaters, are not legally available online.
- **Trust your eyes and ears.** In many cases, the quality of illegal copies is inferior, with poor sound and can appear blurry or shaky.
- **Be cautious when websites make offers that are "too good to be true."** Be wary of "free" content when searching for and purchasing downloads from unfamiliar sites; they typically indicate pirated product. Look out for terms like "Unlimited Movie Downloads," "100% legal," and "Millions of Files Shared."

**For additional resources, including details about the Copyright Alert System, visit [www.copyrightinformation.org](http://www.copyrightinformation.org).**

