

RTC

Broadband Internet Service

Network Management Policy

Ringgold Telephone Company (“**RTC**” or “**Company**”) provides this Policy in order to disclose its network management practices in accordance with the FCC’s Open Internet Rules. Information about **RTC**’s other policies and practices are available at www.rtctel.com (“**Ringgold Telephone Company Website**”).

RTC manages its network to ensure that all of its customers experience a safe and secure broadband Internet environment that is fast, reliable and affordable. **RTC** wants its customers to indulge in all that the Internet has to offer, whether it is social networking, streaming videos and music, to communicating through email and videoconferencing.

RTC manages its network for a number of reasons, including optimization, as well as congestion- and security-protocol-management. But, very few of **RTC**’s customers are impacted by the protocols and practices that **RTC** uses to manage its network.

In addition to this Network Management Policy, patrons may also find links to the following on **RTC**’s website:

-  [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
-  [Acceptable Use Policy](#)

Ringgold Telephone Company’s Network Management Practices

RTC uses various tools and industry standard techniques to manage its network and deliver fast, secure and reliable Internet service. Such management tools and practices include the following:

I. Managing Congestion

RTC periodically monitors the connections on its network in the aggregate to determine the rate of utilization. If congestion emerges on the network, **RTC** will engage in the re-routing of Internet traffic to relieve congestion. In order to reduce instances of congestion, **RTC** has redundancy in the network so that each route has the capacity to handle normal network usage. On our core and access networks, **RTC** may increase capacity by adding FTTH nodes, transport, Internet aggregation routers and bandwidth, as needed.

On **RTC**’s network, all customers have access to all legal services, applications and content online and, in the event of congestion, most Internet activities will be unaffected. Some

customers, however, may experience longer download or upload times, or slower surf speeds on the web when instances of congestion do occur on **RTC**'s network.

Customers whose conduct abuses or threatens **RTC**'s network or which violates the Company's Acceptable Use Policy or Internet service Terms and Conditions will be asked to stop any such use immediately. A failure to respond or to cease any such conduct could result in service suspension or termination.

RTC's network and congestion management practices are 'application-agnostic', based on current network conditions, and are not implemented on the basis of customers' online activities, protocols or applications. **RTC**'s network management does not relate to any particular customer's aggregate monthly data usage.

II. Network Security

RTC knows the importance of securing its network and customers from network threats and annoyances. The company promotes the security of its network and patrons by providing resources to its customers for identifying and reporting such threats as spam, viruses, firewall issues, and phishing schemes. **RTC** also deploys spam filters in order to divert spam from an online customer's email inbox while allowing the customer to control which emails are identified as spam. **RTC** filters email for spam and viruses.

As its normal practice, **RTC** does not block any protocols, content or traffic for purposes of network management except that the company may block or limit such traffic as spam, viruses, malware, or denial of service attacks to protect network integrity and the security of our customers.

Except as may be provided elsewhere herein, **RTC** does not currently engage in any application-specific behaviors nor does it employ any device attachment rules for its network. **RTC reserves the right to** block certain well-known ports that are commonly exploited on the Internet.

II. Technology

RTC's network management employs a variety of industry-standard tools, applications and devices to monitor secure and maintain its network. **RTC** uses a variety of different software to monitor Ethernet interfaces from the ISP core down to the Access network uplinks.

IV. Monitoring Schedule

RTC uses network management software to conduct periodic monitoring of the network in order to detect abnormal traffic flows, congestion, network security breaches, malware, loss, and damage to the network.

V. Network Performance

RTC takes measurements of various components for network performance, analysis of the measurements to determine normal levels, and determination of appropriate threshold values to ensure required levels of performance for its network. **RTC** measures such components as mean upload/download speeds, latency, internal testing, and consumer speed tests to gauge network performance. The Company monitors the values of these components to determine the overall performance of the network. The following is a best approximation of **RTC's** Network Management Performance based on the measured components:

RTC makes every effort to support advertised speeds and will dispatch repair technicians to customer sites if necessary to perform speed tests as needed to troubleshoot and resolve speed and application performance caused by **RTC's** network. **RTC's** Networks measures availability, latency, and aggregate utilization on the network and strives to meet internal service level targets. However, customer's service performance may also be affected by one or more of the following: (1) the particular websites being accessed; (2) capacity in the public Internet beyond **RTC's** Networks' network; (3) customer's computer and equipment (including wireless router); and (4) inside wiring at customer's premise.

RTC engineers each customer's service to exceed the actual purchased speed to allow for overhead and insure the actual speed advertised is available. A speed test is available for customer use on **RTC's** website. **RTC** monitors customer tests to insure the performance of the network meets customer expectantions.

VI. Specialized Services

RTC does not currently offer any specialized services. Accordingly, customers' broadband experiences will not be impacted.

VII. Commercial Terms

A description of **RTC's** service offerings and rates may be found on **RTC's** website at the following link: www.rtctel.com. Ringgold Telephone Company's Privacy Policy may be found on **RTC's** website at the following link: www.rtctel.com.

For questions, complaints or requests for additional information, please contact **RTC** at: (706) 965-1234.