

# LANsultants Times

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## VERIZON STRIKE LOOMS

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the current contract between Verizon and its primary unions will expire. Analysts anticipate a long strike. Repair and service disruptions may be widespread since almost all telephone and Internet access uses Verizon in some way.

During the strike, Verizon managers will be re-assigned to service positions and additional work will be shifted to non-union workers. Service will be prioritized, with governments, major corporations, and hospitals receiving a higher priority than small businesses.

Since possible service disruptions are imminent, we recommend that you defer ordering any modifications to your voice and internet data communications systems until the strike is settled (except for those offices which must migrate from Qwest to Covad DSL promptly since Qwest is closing down its DSL operations in September.)

## RISER MANAGEMENT

An increasing number of high-rise buildings are implementing formal riser management systems. Riser management refers to the running of voice and data cabling between the telephone equipment room in your building and your suite exclusively by the building management company's authorized contractor. Building managers are finding it necessary to implement riser management to provide better security and to prevent inadvertent damage to your voice and data lines by another tenant's telecommunications vendor. This will almost certainly increase the cost of having new voice and data service installed and require coordination with the riser management contractor. At this time buildings managed by Equity Office and ASI have implemented riser management and many others are considering it.

## COMPUTER RECYCLING

Mandatory computer recycling is under consideration in ten state legislatures. California is expected to initiate the first domestic computer recycling laws later this year. Although no similar legislation is currently under consideration in Pennsylvania, both New York and New Jersey are considering enacting recycling laws and a national recycling bill has been presented to congress. While we do not expect any of these bills to become law this year, mandatory recycling will probably be legislated in 2004 or 2005 if voluntary programs fail to achieve greater success.

For the last year, LANsultants' has been disposing of our client's old monitors in a environmentally friendly manner by using the services of Elemental, Inc.. More recently, Dell, Epson, HP and IBM have all initiated hardware recycling programs. Of course, HP has been providing toner recycling programs for years.

Dell has partnered with the National Cristina Foundation (NCF) to help the disabled and economically disadvantaged to obtain donated computer equipment. Donors may receive a tax deduction and a special offer from Dell. Donations do not have to be Dell equipment. For more information visit the following sites:

[www.Dell4me.com/recycling](http://www.Dell4me.com/recycling)

[www.HP.com/recycle](http://www.HP.com/recycle)

Both Dell and HP provide credits for donated equipment. IBM has a recycling program too, but in typical IBM fashion I can not figure out how to access it. A local charity looking for older computer equipment in working condition is Team Children who can be contacted at [Teamchildren@AOL.com](mailto:Teamchildren@AOL.com).

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