



President

<u>Connect Telephone & Computer Group Launches New Cybersecurity Insurance Program</u> with techrug to Protect Local Businesses

Leading Managed Technology Services Provider (MTSP) Delivers Innovative "Dual Claim Coverage" Model to Minimize Wait Time and Eliminate Hassle

BILLINGS, MT – January 25, 2024 - Connect Telephone & Computer Group, a leading managed technology services provider (MTSP), announced today they've launched an exclusive cyber insurance program with techrug to make coverage smoother, faster, and more complete for small to mid-sized businesses (SMBs). As insurance claims have increased in frequency in recent years, so too have tricky contracts and ambiguous wording in many popular cyber insurance policies. The unfortunate result is that there have been numerous "gotcha clauses" where clients who thought they were covered, were not covered due to technicalities. As an authority in the IT space, Connect Telephone & Computer Group has put a stop to this nonsense with its innovative new "dual claim coverage" - whereby both the technology provider and client are covered directly by techrug if a breach occurs.

In the case of an incident, this alignment eliminates any fingerpointing or drawn-out reimbursement processes that have plagued the insurance industry for decades. Connect Telephone & Computer Group negotiated this special program with techrug by submitting its proprietary "technology stack" to heavy scrutiny and it's specifically been approved for clients. This "winwin-win" cyber insurance program is protecting clients so they have certainty that they're covered, it provides with techrug higher insight into client networks and gives Connect Telephone & Computer Group an ability to expedite claims when necessary, due to its alignment in incentive.

For example, a local company was previously paying \$9,000 annually for \$1 million in cyber protection, but the policy limitations still left room for ambiguity. After Connect Telephone & Computer Group introduced its new program, the same company now pays \$7,000 for enhanced \$1 million in coverage plus additional benefits, including the "dual claim" model. This streamlining provides immense relief, gives them immediate access to disbursements and keeps them completely covered in the event of an incident.

"One common flaw with most policies is that the MTSP and client are supported by different insurance companies," said Matt Duray, President at Connect Telephone & Computer Group. "When an incident occurs, if the insurer perceives that the MTSP didn't do something properly, they

will not pay. Whether or not that actually occurred, the difference in perception is enough to cause costly delays for the client. While the MTSP and insurer argue, the end result is that the client is effectively penalized because they have no choice but to wait for an unpredictable amount of time while those two companies resolve their conflict. However, with our new program, if a breach happens, clients are no longer subject to that costly waiting period. Since we have a 'dual policy' with techrug, our clients will receive immediate disbursement to keep their business operational, regardless of who is to blame for the incident, because techrug insures us, too. The benefit to our clients is that way they will receive immediate relief while we later diagnose at what level the cyber incident was caused. Since techrug insures both of us directly, our claims get paid out immediately without passing blame back and forth and wasting precious time, which is vital for client businesses during such an event."

Standard cyber insurance policies are riddled with complex exclusions used to avoid or delay payouts. However, this partnership with techrug has eliminated any of the worries of "fine print," covering costs related to investigations, notifications, equipment damage, lost income, and regulatory penalties. By simplifying coverage, clients avoid nasty surprises during already stressful breach events. "Cyber insurance should provide true peace of mind, and frankly, we don't understand how anyone else can promise peace of mind, without aligning incentives via 'dual claim'," added Duray.

This insurance innovation enables swift recovery, preventing clients from absorbing losses because of policy and procedural delays. Paired with Connect Telephone & Computer Group's validated security stack, it offers businesses an air-tight defense against growing cyber threats.

ABOUT CONNECT TELEPHONE & COMPUTER GROUP

Connect Telephone & Computer Group is Montana's premier telephone and data communications group. Connect provides industry-leading products, serviced by the most certified technicians in the region. The company's local dispatch center delivers round-the-clock service to ensure system reliability. The Connect Group also offers comprehensive service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and emergency service guaranteed within 4 hours.