



Welcome to the fourth edition of the **ELSI 2Link** Newsletter. This publication is provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to inform license agents of upcoming changes to Iowa's electronic hunting and fishing license sales system. Development of the new ELSI system, or ELSI 2, is continuing and this newsletter is intended to keep agents up-to-date to what can be expected in the coming months. Past issues of this publication may be found online at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/license/elsi2.html>.

Project Overview, Improvements and Benefits

The much anticipated replacement of the ELSI sales equipment used since 2001 is nearing reality. The roll-out of the new sales equipment is projected to take place by July. New equipment and technology offers numerous improvements and benefits:

- New state of the art equipment utilizing touch screen technology
- Internet based system; compatible with dial-up or high speed Internet connections
- 2-D bar code reader can be used to scan Iowa driver's licenses as well as the licenses and tags issued by the new equipment
- Improved communication with license agents including electronic newsletters, updates and messaging via new equipment and links to DNR's website
- System upgrades will not require traditional downloads
- License agents will have access to their accounting records and sales information

DNR Licensing Announces Pilot Roll Out

As the ELSI 2 general agent release grows near, the DNR will be working with approximately 30 license agents to test ELSI 2 in a live retail setting. We anticipate releasing these test machines by May. Existing license

agents were divided into six districts geographically and selected for the pilot by using a cross section of license agent types including County Recorders, large chain retail stores, and small independently owned shops. Using ELSI 2 in advance of the general roll out will help to identify discrepancies in the system and allow for an opportunity to make corrections prior to the statewide roll-out. The Department would like to thank the pilot license agents for their hard work on behalf of the state and all other existing and future ELSI vendors.



Agent Helpdesk

The last issue of the **ELSI 2Link** Newsletter sent in February, contained information concerning the need to provide a connection to the Internet in order to use the new ELSI 2 sales equipment. This resulted in numerous questions from agents regarding their specific Internet connection situations. In response to this, Active Network, IDNR's ELSI 2 contractor, has provided a helpdesk for license agents to contact for any

technical questions you may have and is available now to assist in preparations prior to ELSI 2 rollout. The helpdesk can be reached at **1-800-772-0775**. Please beware that the DNR will be sending agents more detailed packet of ELSI 2 Preparation, Guidelines & Instructions in the coming weeks.

Internet Connection – Quick Facts

As mentioned previously, connection to the Internet is a requirement for the next generation of license sales in Iowa. It is the responsibility of each license agent to secure an Internet connection. If you already have Internet service at your sales location, you may use your existing provider. The system will operate with the any Internet connection; however, a high speed connection will likely provide optimal performance.

Dial-up through your telephone line:

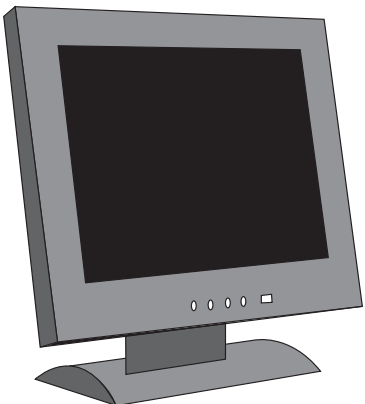
As the description suggests, every time you need to access the Internet, your terminal will need to dial through a phone line to connect to the sales system. If you share the same phone line with a business phone, fax machine or credit card machine, only one use is available at any given time. To avoid this, a dedicated phone can be added for the license sales system; however, the business would be responsible for

the costs of installing and maintaining this new line.

Satellite: Internet over Satellite (IoS) allows a user to access the Internet via a satellite that orbits the earth. A satellite is placed at a static point above the earth's surface, in a fixed position. Because of the enormous distances signals must travel from the earth up to the satellite and back again, IoS is slightly slower than high-speed terrestrial connections over copper or fiber optic cables.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) (High Speed): DSL uses an existing phone line connected to a modem which would then be connected to the touch screen terminal. A DSL set up will not tie up your phone as a dial-up connection does and there is no need to dial-in to establish a connection as DSL is always on.

Cable (High Speed): Through the use of a cable modem you can have a broadband Internet connection that is designed to operate over cable TV lines. Cable Internet works by using TV channel space for data transmission, with certain channels used for downstream



transmission, and other channels for upstream transmission. Because the coaxial cable used by cable TV provides much greater bandwidth than telephone lines, a cable modem can be used to achieve faster Internet speeds.

Local Area Network (LAN) (High Speed): Provides networking capability to a group of computers in close proximity to each other such as in an office building, a school, or a home. A LAN is useful for sharing resources like files, printers, or other applications. A LAN is also connected to the internet and sometimes to other LANs.

License agents are encouraged to contact the Agent Help Desk at **1-800-772-0775** for any Internet connection questions or concerns.

Equipment Placement

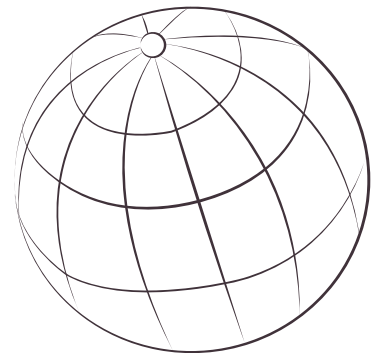
The new ELSI sales equipment will require approximately the same counter space as the current equipment. As discussed in the previous newsletter, there are three main components to the system: a touch screen terminal, a bar code reader and a printer.

You will need a single grounded wall outlet within 6 feet of the area where the equipment is located. The terminal requires 110V AC or

standard electric current that provides reliable, stable power.

If you have a dial-up connection, the touch screen terminal will need to be within 6 feet of a telephone jack in order to use the supplied phone line. If you are unable to get the terminal within 6 feet of a wall jack, you will need to purchase a telephone line extension cable.

If you have a high-speed Internet connection, the new terminal will be connected via an Ethernet jack. A live Ethernet jack should be located within 10 feet of the terminal so you can use the cable supplied with the equipment. If the Ethernet jack is farther away than 10 feet, you will have to provide your own cable. If you have questions or need further assistance with this type of connection, please contact the Agent Helpdesk at **1-800-772-0775**. Corporate store employees will need to contact their technical support staff for assistance.



Coming Up

In the next edition of **ELSI2Link**, we hope to share some examples of what typical screen layouts may look like for the touch screens. We will also continue to share programming developments and discuss setup and training logistics.