



## Internet Security

### Corporate Profile

**Company Name:**

Ouachita Independent Bank

**Headquarters Address:**

909 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 100  
Monroe, LA 71201

**Headquarters Telephone:**

318-338-3000

**Company Web Page:**

[www.oibank.com](http://www.oibank.com)

**Date Company Founded:**

1997

**Current President/CEO:**

Clyde White

**Company Function:**

Banking/Financial Services

**Number of Employees:**

120

**Technology Involved:**

DSL, Spam Filter

**Bank Contact:**

John Tolar  
VP Marketing  
[tolarj@oibank.com](mailto:tolarj@oibank.com)  
318-338-3024

### About Ouachita Independent Bank

Ouachita Independent Bank, founded in 1997 in Monroe, LA, is a locally owned and managed community bank serving the people of Northern Louisiana. Since opening its doors in the mid-nineties, the bank has grown rapidly and proven to be very profitable. Part of the bank's success can be attributed to its dedication to excellent customer service and to helping the community.

### The Challenge

Since inception, Ouachita Independent Bank has used Bayou Internet's high-speed DSL for a variety of functions with great satisfaction. The bank later implemented a T-1 connection from the West Monroe offices to the Shreveport offices. Recently, the security of the Internet and email has become jeopardized with more and more Spam invading the bank's email accounts everyday. Spam is not only a nuisance, it poses a serious threat and opens the door for viruses and other malicious programs to sneak into a computer or network. Like all businesses using the Internet and email, safety and security has become an important issue at the bank.

*"Bayou's Spam filter is like having double protection on our computers. One layer blocks Spam, while another detects viruses."*

– Ron Lawson  
IT Officer  
Ouachita Independent Bank



## The Decision

Because Ouachita Independent Bank is a long-time customer of Bayou Internet, Jerry Scroggin, owner and general manager of Bayou Internet, has a close relationship with the team and keeps them up-to-date on the latest in communications technology. When Bayou Internet introduced its newest Spam filter, Scroggin immediately contacted the bank to inform them of the product and the impressive results that had been reported. The bank decided to try the Spam filter. It was not a difficult decision, Bayou Internet was a local company the bank trusted and had a strong relationship with.

## The Solution

The transition to the new, stronger Spam filter was fast, smooth, and the results were immediate. With the Spam filter, all incoming mail passes through Bayou's secure servers where junkmail is identified and stopped from moving further. Each user receives a notification twice a day to show them all blocked Spam. The filter also provides virus protection against malicious email, an effective extra layer of defense.

## The Results

As mentioned earlier, results were immediate with Bayou Internet's Spam filter. Since implementation, the bank has seen a 90-95% decrease in Spam. The 150 Spam emails a day office-wide have been reduced to around 10.

"The Spam filter has cut down on our email traffic immensely. We are extremely pleased with the service and the double layer of protection it offers against Spam and viruses," comments Ron Lawson, IT Officer with Ouachita Independent Bank. "From our DSL and T-1 connections to the Spam filter, Bayou's services are always dependable and valuable to our bank's operations."

John Tolar, vice president of marketing for Ouachita Independent Bank adds, "We are happy to do business with Bayou Internet because the people there truly care about fulfilling our Internet needs. We also enjoy working with a local, customer service-oriented company, much like us."

## About Bayou Internet

Bayou Internet is the largest independently owned Internet and communication service provider in Northern Louisiana, Bayou's expertise and ability supersedes that of any other local communications provider in the 318 area code. The company's experience in servicing Northern Louisiana and ability to customize services to align with specific needs exemplifies its commitment to the community. As Ouachita Independent Bank has experienced, Bayou is dedicated to not only serving, but also partnering with and consulting its customers about their technology needs.