

BEATING PROTEL'S PROGRAMMING SECURITY CODE

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Protel pay phones were founded in 1983 in Lakeland, Florida. Since then they have been a world leader as a supplier of pay phone equipment in more than 60 countries worldwide. To my knowledge, Protel is the only pay phone manufacturer that has not filed for bankruptcy.

Protel makes many different models of pay phones, many of which are programmable from remote locations using their Expressnet software. Knowing how to detect a Protel can sometimes be difficult as they look physically similar to many other brand of pay phones. Sometimes it might say Protel somewhere on the instruction card. The best way to determine if you are using

a Protel is to actually use the phone and look for the following features:

- Collects money at the end of the call
- *#6x codes can used to obtain bits of info about the phone*
- * - Companies can program the phones so *#6x codes are disabled, if they want to, however it doesn't appear possible or common in Canada and USA.

Most of their models look physically similar to each other with minor differences, like card readers and such. Also, all Protel phones to my knowledge are line powered. A few of the newer models like the XP 1230 and the Ascension have a more updated look. A mostly complete list of their models follow:

- Protel 1000 Express (Seen in Mexico)
(<http://payphonepictures.imess.net/mex1.jpg>)
- Protel 2000 (Seen in the USA)
(<http://www.payphone-directory.org/protel.jpg>)
- Protel 4000 (Seen in the USA and Canada)
(<http://payphonepictures.imess.net/protel.jpg>)
- Protel 7000 (Seen in the USA)
(<http://www.aicphone.com/catalog/ghousings/AC-2100P.jpg>)

- Protel 8000 (Seen in the USA, has been discontinued)

(http://www.payphoneproducts.com/img/products/product_wm_west_large.gif)

- Protel 1230XP (Seen in Canada and Australia, has been discontinued)

(<http://payphonepictures.imess.net/paytelpro.jpg>)

- Protel Ascension (Seen in the USA)

(http://www.protelinc.com/main/images/ascension_series.jpg)

Strangely, Protel doesn't have the most intelligent security system in place as far as programming their phones go. All that is required once one has the proper software is a 4 digit Security Code. Sometimes these codes can be guessed, but why guess when you don't have to. All one needs to do is to capture the data from a certain companies Protel by calling it. You can then use the captured data and pretend to be a payphone when you call the phone company's computer number. (*Hint: The company computer number can be obtained by pressing *#65 while using a Protel*). Anyhow, the company's computer will think that one of their Protels is calling and will send you the Security Code. Of course it will be encoded; usually in easily read ASCII text or Binary Coded Decimal (BCD). From here, you're off to the races as far as programming goes. Have fun.

Below is a list of companies in the Pacific Northwest and their respective Protel computer numbers and 4 digit Security Code. Now, I'd like to bring the attention of the class towards the Telus security code, that's right it's 0000. Or in other words, they didn't even bother to set it. You could input any code for a Telus phone and it would be accepted. That's sad huh?

Company Name	Computer Phone	Security code	Comment
Mountain Paytel	406-777-4688	0697	Computer number disconnected
Qwest	800-525-0385	9347	
Verizon/GTE	800-483-6599	4004	
Verizon/PTM	800-860-7798	8383	
NSC	866-479-2730	9347	
Western Comm.	425-338-9517	8811	
Integrity Cointel	406-777-0105	????	person answers phone
TELUS/Landline	800-465-0615	0000	Security by Obscurity
TELUS/Cellular	604-293-1374	0000	Security by Obscurity
Paytel Canada	604-821-1374	5474	OUT OF BUSINESS
CoinOp Management	604-872-0595	5474	
KTS	253-472-3910	3910	
Paycom	425-392-9395	1974	
CostTel	253-639-0394	2463	
Northwest Paytele	800-978-7483	4321	OUT OF BUSINESS
America West	866-305-5075	1454	
Telcorp USA	206-275-0476	4321	
TelService NW	253-630-1770	1770	
Paytel Communic.	425-455-1341	4055	
CMS	503-643-0915	9753	

NCF	425-821-2634	5474	
MetroPhone	800-959-2643	0977	OUT OF BUSINESS
PhoneTel	800-999-1479	7723	
WestTel	425-254-0949	9486	
Smoke Signal Tel.	509-585-7937	4444	
Sprint	800-788-1692	4956	
Smartstop	503-276-5106	3865	

The Expressnet software can be difficult to obtain. You could buy it from Protel or if you're lucky, maybe you could get it from someone who already has it. There are free upgrades available at <http://www.protelinc.com>. If one knows what they are doing, they could download the free upgrade only version and they could get around the "Upgrade Only" restriction to obtain a full version of the Expressnet software.

Research and/or pictures courtesy of the following sites:

<http://www.protelinc.com>
<http://www.hackcanada.com>
<http://www.nettwerked.net>
<http://www.payphone-directory.org>
<http://payphonepictures.imess.net>

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