

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person - *	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
GEPHARDT Richard A	CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)
100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE	7/1/2009	
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
MONROE, LA 71203		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
(City) (State) (Zip)		<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	7/1/2009		A		2574 (1)	A	\$0	2574	D	
Common Stock	7/2/2009		A		3161 (2)	A	\$0	5735	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Restricted Stock Units	\$0	7/1/2009		A		3282 (3)	(3)	(3)	Common Stock	3282	\$0	3282	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Received in exchange for shares of common stock of Embarq Corporation in connection with the merger of Embarq Corporation and CenturyTel, Inc. on July 1, 2009.
- Represents a grant of restricted stock from the Issuer.
- These restricted stock units vest and underlying shares will be delivered to reporting person on April 30, 2010.

Remarks:

Each share of Embarq common stock was exchanged for 1.37 shares of CenturyTel, Inc. common stock on July 1, 2009 pursuant to the merger agreement. Any fractional share was paid in cash. The value of each share of CenturyTel common stock at the close of business on June 30, 2009 was \$30.70.

The number of shares underlying each CenturyTel restricted stock unit award (?RSU?) was determined by multiplying the number of shares of Embarq common stock underlying each RSU by the Exchange Ratio (1.37), rounded up to the nearest whole share.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GEPHARDT Richard A 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203	X			

Signatures

Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact

7/6/2009

Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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