

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 13G**

**UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**ANNUAL FILING**

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
(NAME OF ISSUER)

**COMMON STOCK**  
(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

156700106  
(CUSIP NUMBER)

12/31/2016  
(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS  
SCHEDULE IS FILED:**

☒ (X) RULE 13D-1 (B)

☐ ( ) RULE 13D-1 (C)

☐ ( ) RULE 13D-1 (D)

\*THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL BE FILLED OUT FOR A REPORTING PERSON'S INITIAL FILING ON THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT CLASS OF SECURITIES, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALTER THE DISCLOSURES PROVIDED IN A PRIOR COVER PAGE.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE "FILED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 18 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 ("ACT") OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE LIABILITIES OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT BUT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (HOWEVER, SEE THE NOTES).

CUSIP NO: 156700106    13G

Page 2 of 5 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON: STATE STREET CORPORATION  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF THE ABOVE PERSON: 04-2456637
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
  
NOT APPLICABLE
3. SEC USE ONLY
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
5. SOLE VOTING POWER  
  
0 SHARES
6. SHARED VOTING POWER  
  
23,733,890
7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
  
0 SHARES
8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
  
30,869,623
9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
  
30,869,623\*
10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES  
  
NOT APPLICABLE
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9  
  
5.65%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC

\*23,733,890 SHARES HELD IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES  
7,135,733 SHARES AS INVESTMENT MANAGER FOR THE CENTURYLINK DOLLAR AND  
SENSE 401(K) PLAN AND THE CENTURYLINK UNION 401(K) PLAN

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 3 of 5 Pages

ITEM 1.

(A) NAME OF ISSUER  
CENTURYLINK, INC.

(B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
P O BOX 4065  
100 CENTURYLINK DR  
MONROE LA 71203

ITEM 2.

(A) NAME OF PERSON FILING  
STATE STREET CORPORATION AND ANY OTHER REPORTING PERSON  
IDENTIFIED ON THE SECOND PART OF THE COVER PAGES HERETO

(B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IN NONE,  
RESIDENCE  
STATE STREET FINANCIAL CENTER  
ONE LINCOLN STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02111  
(FOR ALL REPORTING PERSONS)

(C) CITIZENSHIP: SEE ITEM 4 (CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF  
ORGANIZATION) OF COVER PAGES

(D) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COMMON STOCK

(E) CUSIP NUMBER:  
156700106

ITEM 3.

IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B)  
OR (C), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:  
SEE ITEM 12 (TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON) OF THE COVER PAGE  
FOR EACH REPORTING PERSON AND THE TABLE BELOW, WHICH EXPLAINS  
THE MEANING OF THE TWO LETTER SYMBOLS APPEARING IN ITEM 12 OF  
THE COVER PAGES.

SYMBOL	CATEGORY
BK	BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A) (6) OF THE ACT.
IC	INSURANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 (A) (19) OF THE ACT
IC	INVESTMENT COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.
IA	AN INVESTMENT ADVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (E).
EP	AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR ENDOWMENT FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (F) .
HC	A PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (G) .
SA	A SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(B) OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT (12 U.S.C. 1813) .
CP	A CHURCH PLAN THAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITION OF AN INVESTMENT COMPANY UNDER SECTION 3(C) (14) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 4 of 5 Pages

ITEM 4.

OWNERSHIP  
THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN ROWS 5 THROUGH 11 OF THE COVER PAGE  
HERETO FOR EACH OF THE REPORTING PERSONS IS INCORPORATED  
HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF CLASS  
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON  
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH  
ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING  
COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON  
SEE EXHIBIT 1 ATTACHED HERETO

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMEBERS OF THE GROUP  
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP  
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
AND BELIEF, THE SECURITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE ACQUIRED AND ARE  
HELD IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND ARE

NOT HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OR WITH THE EFFECT OF CHANGING OR INFLUENCING THE CONTROL OF THE ISSUER OF THE SECURITIES AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND ARE NOT HELD IN CONNECTION WITH OR AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY TRANSACTION HAVING THAT PURPOSE OR EFFECT.

SIGNATURES

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

FEBRUARY 6, 2017  
STATE STREET CORPORATION

/S/ SEAN P. NEWTH  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,  
CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND CONTROLLER

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 5 of 5 Pages

EXHIBIT 1

THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS THE IDENTITY AND ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION OF EACH SUBSIDIARY OF STATE STREET CORPORATION, THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY, THAT BENEFICIALLY OWNS THE ISSUER'S SECURITIES. PLEASE REFER TO ITEM 3 OF THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE 13G FOR A DESCRIPTION OF EACH OF THE TWO-LETTER SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION BELOW.

SUBSIDIARY	ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY	BK
SSGA FUNDS MANAGEMENT, INC.	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, LTD	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, AUSTRALIA, LIMITED	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (ASIA) LIMITED	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (JAPAN) CO., LTD	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS FRANCE, S.A.	IA

NOTE: ALL OF THE LEGAL ENTITIES ABOVE ARE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIARIES OF STATE STREET CORPORATION.