

Cheek William E
Form 4
January 23, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Cheek William E

(Last) (First) (Middle)
CENTURYLINK, INC., 100
CENTURYLINK DRIVE
(Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CENTURYLINK, INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
01/20/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
President - Wholesale Op.

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction 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	01/20/2012		M		868	A	\$ 24.34
Common Stock	01/20/2012		M		15,963	A	\$ 30.62
Common Stock	01/20/2012		S ⁽¹⁾		16,831	D	\$ 38
Common Stock							763.8736
						I	By TRASOP

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

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction 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 (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
NQ Stock Option	\$ 24.34	01/20/2012		M	868	<u>(2)</u> 02/10/2014	Common Stock	868
NQ Stock Option	\$ 30.62	01/20/2012		M	15,963	<u>(2)</u> 03/02/2018	Common Stock	15,963

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Cheek William E CENTURYLINK, INC. 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			President - Wholesale Op.	

Signatures

/s/ Jennifer A. D'Alessandro, as attorney-in-fact
 **Signature of Reporting Person
 01/23/2012
 Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) This sale was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.
- (2) The option is fully vested.
- (3) Received pursuant to the merger agreement between Embarq Corp. and CenturyTel, Inc. (n/k/a CenturyLink, Inc.) on July 1, 2009 in exchange for an option to acquire 634 shares of Embarq common stock for \$33.34 per share.

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- (4) Received pursuant to the merger agreement between Embarq Corp. and CenturyTel, Inc. (n/k/a CenturyLink, Inc.) on July 1, 2009 in exchange for an option to acquire 11,652 shares of Embarq common stock for \$41.94 per share.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.